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Annual schools cross-country race PAGE 33

TODAY

10P

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

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Every day this week

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PLUS Nigella Lawson on women at work

PLUS Anne Frank Day 3: life with mother

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GIRLZONE

Alan Jackson on the femrock revolution in the Magazine

PLUS WEEKEND, CAR 97, WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND 7-DAY TV AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

Blair sets sights on new deal for schools

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR launched a personal crusade to transform school standards yesterday when he announced that a far-reaching Education Bill would be Labour's top priority.

It would include measures to reduce class sizes, improve literacy standards and set homework targets. He also promised to replace poor headteachers and to take over bad schools.

"If we want to get this right, it has to be driven through from the top, no holds barred," Mr Blair said. "This is my passion." Education would dominate his agenda for the next decade and he intended to approach it with the same zeal that Margaret Thatcher had applied to the trade unions.

In the Eighties, whether you like it or not, the Conservatives drove through a programme of trade union reform," Mr Blair said in an interview with David Frost on BBC1. "In the late 1990s, and

which will require primary legislation, include:

- National minimum homework requirements - from 30 minutes a night for seven-year-olds to 90 minutes for secondary pupils;
- Home-school contracts signed by teachers and parents specifying the work required;
- National literacy targets, now being developed by a task force chaired by the educationist Michael Barber;
- Assessment of children's reading ability on entry to primary schools, and three-week "literacy summer schools" before secondary school;
- Cutting primary school class sizes to 30, using funds from abolishing the assisted places scheme for private schools;
- Providing nursery education for all four-year-olds, and scrapping the Tories' voucher scheme;
- Enabling head teachers of successful schools temporarily to take over the running of neighbouring failing schools;
- Requiring every head teacher to be properly qualified for the job before getting it.

Labour would keep Woodhead

Tony Blair gave his full backing to Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, in the face of teachers' claims that he is biased towards government policies.

Mr Blair said that there was absolutely no chance that a Labour government would replace Mr Woodhead, whose contract runs until 1999.

The endorsement was welcomed by Mr Woodhead, who said: "I have always argued that the accusation that Ofsted and myself are Tory poodles is complete nonsense. We have sought to contribute to this Government's attempts to raise standards. We would do exactly the same if there were to be a Labour government."

early part of the next millennium, I want the next Labour government to be every bit as committed and determined and passionate about driving through education reform in this country. If at the end of five years we have made a definable difference to the way our children are educated in this country, we will have done something of which we can be proud."

But Gillian Shepard, the Education and Employment Secretary dismissed Mr Blair's remarks as hot air. Labour had consistently opposed Tory measures to raise standards but had now identified areas where the Government was already taking action, she said.

Labour's proposals, some of

Labour also aims to ensure that in ten years' time no child should enter secondary school with below-standard English skills - at the moment 40 per cent of children fail to reach the required level.

Teaching organisations gave Mr Blair's proposals a mixed reception. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Some ideas we would welcome, like class sizes and head teachers' qualifications. But Mr Blair fails to realise just how reform-weary teachers are. Without additional resources a lot of the reforms he proposes are just pie in the sky."

David Hart of the National Association of Head Teachers was delighted that Mr Blair had recognised the importance of education, but added: "Tony Blair has to recognise that an incoming Labour government must address the current crisis affecting teacher recruitment, retention and motivation, otherwise its education policies will come to naught."

Mr Blair also used his interview to reiterate his determination to frustrate government business in the parliamentary session starting today. He aims to do all he can to force a confidence vote if he thinks the opposition parties will unite to defeat the Government, but Labour sources said last night that he did not expect to be able to do that in the near future. MPs would therefore concentrate on trying to inflict minor defeats.

Swiss ditch round-world balloon

A SWISS attempt to beat Richard Branson in the race to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon ended abruptly in the Mediterranean yesterday only six hours after take-off (writes Andrew Pierce).

Mr Branson promptly committed himself to making another attempt at the record later this year.

Kerosene fumes leaked into the capsule of the British-designed Breil Orbiter within minutes of the launch from the Swiss mountain resort of Chateau O'Oex, making the air in the pressurised cabin unbearable.

Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Wim Verstraeten of Belgium, made a controlled landing off the coast of southern France and were

picked up by the French navy. Mr Branson, whose Virgin Challenger was forced to land in the Algerian desert after 20 hours said: "I know how they must feel. Both attempts show how difficult it is to pull this off. But the race is back on."

An American millionaire, Steve Fossett, is preparing to leave on a similar attempt from the United States later this month.

Virgin Challenger engineers are flying back to Algeria today to retrieve the black box data log from the capsule of the balloon, which is under military protection in the desert.

Branson diary, page 5



Patricia Coulton, who was found stabbed in her car in the grounds of the Lynwood Nursing Home, near Sunningdale in Berkshire, on Saturday. Her husband had reported her missing



Wife of Palace policeman is found murdered

By KATHRYN KNIGHT AND STEWART TENDLER

THE wife of a Royal Protection Group policeman has been found stabbed to death in her car in the grounds of a Berkshire nursing home. Patricia Coulton, 52, had been stabbed in the head, neck and back in a frenzied and apparently motiveless attack.

Her body was found lying in a pool of blood in her white car at noon on Saturday in the 22-acre grounds of Lynwood Nursing Home in Sunningdale, where she worked as a care assistant. One theory was that she was ambushed as she tried to leave work.

Mrs Coulton's husband, Michael, is a uniformed constable in the Metropolitan Police Royal Protection Group and until recently regularly patrolled Buckingham Palace as part of his duties. He is also believed to have been one of the team responsible for security at the Duke of York's house, Sunninghill Park, which is less than a mile from the murder scene.

PC Coulton was reported to be in deep shock last night and was being comforted by his son, Neil, and teenage daughter, Melissa, at his home in Woking, Surrey.

He reported that his wife was missing in the early hours of Saturday after she failed to return from her evening shift at Lynwood, a home owned by the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund to care for former employees. Less than 12 hours later, a visitor walking her dog in the grounds discovered Mrs Coulton's body, sprawled across the driver's seat with her legs protruding from the driver's door. The car was parked only yards away from residential buildings.

Some of the 150 residents

Continued on page 2, col 2

Thousands welcome Bullimore

THOUSANDS of well-wishers gathered on the Fremantle water front early today to welcome the sailor Tony Bullimore after his rescue from the Southern Ocean.

His wife Laila and other family members joined dignitaries and a flotilla of boats in scenes not seen in the port since Australia hosted the America's Cup.

The lone sailor, who spent four days trapped in the hull of his upturned yacht, was returning on the frigate HMAS Adelaide.

□ The search for Gerry Rous, another competitor in the round-the-world race, who has been out of contact since Wednesday, has been suspended.

Bosses demand interest rate rise

The Institute of Directors will today urge the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to put up interest rates. The move comes ahead of Wednesday's meeting between Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England.

The IoD says that it is concerned about inflationary pressures, a feeling shared by Howard Davies, the Deputy Governor. Page 44

Sailor is trapped under boat's hull

A air-sea rescue was launched last night after a cabin cruiser capsized in the Bristol Channel. Two people were rescued from the sea by other vessels nearby, and one was believed to be trapped beneath the boat's hull. A fourth person was missing.

Bulgaria may give way over election

Bulgaria's socialists appeared to be bowing to pressure to hold elections. As thousands gathered on the streets, the party president said the government was ready to discuss the issue. Page 10



"I keep getting this feeling I'm going to be squashed by a balloon"

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هكذا من الأصل

Major devises a compromise plan for EU flexibility

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN ISLAMABAD

THE TIMES

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BY IAN MURRAY

Leading article, page 19

Lawrence widow fights sleaze

Freighter runs down trawler

Girls' A levels upgraded

Oxford place for girl, 12

Man is found dead in flat

High-tech school dinners

Cathedral floor broken up

Alert on sesame allergy

Attack claim at Prince's hunt

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

truder was loose in the grounds. "We are deeply up-


assault. Nothing had been stolen. He said: "We are anxious to speak to anyone who saw the victim or her vehicle between 10pm on Fri-

More than 20 detectives and other uniformed constables from Thames Valley and the

BY JILL SHERMAN

igation yesterday. Geoffrey Atkinson, the director of the nursing home, said colleagues

PC Coulton is a member of Scotland Yard's SO14 royalty protection division responsi-

Continued from page 1 spoke of their shock and set, but we are all a bit jumpy because we don't understand. There is a possibility that the car left the grounds and re-

London. A329 she always gave 101 per cent both when working and

were frightened that an intruder was loose in the grounds. "We are deeply up-

vehicle between 10pm on Friday and midday on Saturday when her body was discovered.

from Thames Valley and the Metropolitan Police were drafted into the murder inves-

were finding news of Mrs Coulton's death hard to accept. "She was a super carer.

protection division responsible for the security of the Royal Family and their homes.

Middleton Hunt, which met in Bagthorpe near York on

on the Earl of Halifax's estate
Saturday.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

*model specifications vary

PCs • NOTEBOOKS • SERVERS

Exam failure

1. Computer
 2. Printer
 3. Scanner
 4. Router
 5. Switch
 6. Modem
 7. Network Card
 8. Power Supply
 9. Case
 10. Monitor
 11. Keyboard
 12. Mouse
 13. Webcam
 14. Headset
 15. External Drive
 16. UPS
 17. Antenna
 18. Antistatic Wristband
 19. Thermal Paper
 20. Barcode Labels
 21. RFID Tags
 22. Biometric Sensors
 23. Smart Cards
 24. Proximity Readers
 25. Access Control Systems
 26. Video Surveillance Cameras
 27. Intercom Systems
 28. Public Address Systems
 29. Emergency Lighting
 30. Fire Alarms
 31. Smoke Detectors
 32. Carbon Monoxide Detectors
 33. Gas Detectors
 34. Water Leak Detectors
 35. Door Sensors
 36. Window Sensors
 37. Motion Detectors
 38. Temperature Sensors
 39. Humidity Sensors
 40. Pressure Sensors
 41. Flow Sensors
 42. Level Sensors
 43. Proximity Sensors
 44. Ultrasonic Sensors
 45. Infrared Sensors
 46. Photoelectric Sensors
 47. Inductive Proximity Sensors
 48. Capacitive Proximity Sensors
 49. Non-contact Sensors
 50. Barcode Readers
 51. RFID Readers
 52. Biometric Readers
 53. Access Control Readers
 54. Proximity Readers
 55. Video Surveillance Cameras
 56. Intercom Systems
 57. Public Address Systems
 58. Emergency Lighting
 59. Fire Alarms
 60. Smoke Detectors
 61. Carbon Monoxide Detectors
 62. Gas Detectors
 63. Water Leak Detectors
 64. Door Sensors
 65. Window Sensors
 66. Motion Detectors
 67. Temperature Sensors
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 71. Level Sensors
 72. Proximity Sensors
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 76. Inductive Proximity Sensors
 77. Capacitive Proximity Sensors
 78. Non-contact Sensors
 79. Barcode Readers
 80. RFID Readers
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 83. Proximity Readers
 84. Video Surveillance Cameras
 85. Intercom Systems
 86. Public Address Systems
 87. Emergency Lighting
 88. Fire Alarms
 89. Smoke Detectors
 90. Carbon Monoxide Detectors
 91. Gas Detectors
 92. Water Leak Detectors
 93. Door Sensors
 94. Window Sensors
 95. Motion Detectors
 96. Temperature Sensors
 97. Humidity Sensors
 98. Pressure Sensors
 99. Flow Sensors
 100. Level Sensors

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Dean attacks 'malevolent rumour' as police inquiry clears two teachers

School may sue parents over sex claims about staff

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's oldest schools is considering suing two parents who made claims of sexual impropriety against senior teachers. Wells Cathedral School, founded in the 12th century, will consult lawyers today because it feels its reputation suffered "incalculable damage" from the allegations.

The two male teachers at the centre of the claims were cleared last week after a three-month police inquiry that became the talk of the historic Somerset city after widespread publicity.

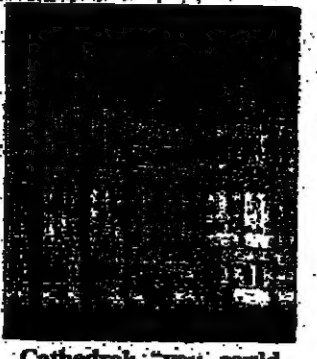
The Very Rev Richard Lewis, the Dean of Wells, who is chairman of the school's governors, said it seemed that Britain was becoming a society "where you have to prove innocence rather than guilt". He stunned parishioners by denouncing the parents from the cathedral pulpit.

"What we are dealing with here are persons with fevered imaginations, malevolent spirit and malicious intent," he told the congregation. "This has been going on for a long time, and indeed one of these persons wrote to me and the headmaster promising to cause mischief."

One of those present said: "The nave was full but you could have heard a pin drop when he finished."

The allegations cast a cloud over the 800-pupil school, where fees are nearly £10,000 a year. The claims were originally investigated by the school more than a year ago, when both teachers were exonerated. One was accused of encouraging girls to sit on his knee and the other of touching female pupils and making lewd remarks.

In response to a letter from the dean last May saying that the matter was closed after the school's investigation, one of the parents wrote back saying: "Unfortunately, the matter is not closed. At present, the matter is just settling up."



Cathedral "you could have heard a pin drop"

It is believed one of the parents sent a four-page report to social services at Somerset County Council, and followed it up with complaints to the police, who decided to investigate in September.

The dean's pulpit outburst followed the disclosure of the allegations in the national media in November. Yesterday he said: "Since November, we have had individuals and families who have been deeply distressed by this malevolent rumour. It seems we are becoming a society where you have to prove innocence rather than guilt. The damage this has caused to Wells Cathedral School is incalculable."

The dean refused to name the parents behind the allegations. He said: "The persons concerned have already taken their children away. One left in high dudgeon, and I am afraid to say there are still serious outstanding."

He put the complaints' attitude down to "deep sickness of the heart and disappointment that their young people had not reached the standard that perhaps the parents had imagined, and the school gets the blame."

He robustly defended the teachers involved, neither of whom was suspended during the police investigation. The first was a "scholarship" teacher, he said.

He is the sort of person to whom children look up and get

round and it really was no more than that.

"I could take you to dozens and dozens of parents who have been absolutely appalled and unhappy that this person has been treated in this way because he is held in such high esteem."

The second was said to have made a remark "in the cut and thrust" of a lesson. "It was a throwaway line which two years later comes back as harassment. The integrity of these teachers is quite beyond reproach."

The dean added: "We do feel very angry indeed at having to mount such a strong defence and we feel a great sense of injustice because we have discovered how powerless we are to defend ourselves when these sorts of accusations are made."

"We are considering action and will be asking our advisers what is appropriate to redress the great harm that has been done to us. Suing them must be among the options that we consider."

The Independent Schools' Information Service said it believed this was the first case of its kind.

Dick Davison, the association's deputy director, said: "Schools have occasionally taken legal action against parents over unpaid fees, but I cannot think of anything quite like this."

The school fears that potential parents may have been put off by the publicity and innuendo surrounding the case. Both the parents who made the accusations withdrew their children from the school last year.

Don Salisbury, head of Avon and Somerset Police family and child protection unit, said: "There were one or two main allegations, and a number of more minor issues. We investigated them very thoroughly and decided that there will be no further action. Apart from that, I don't wish to say any more."



The Very Rev Richard Lewis yesterday. He said: "The teachers are beyond reproach"

Princess visits war zone after royal truce

By CAROL MIDDLEY

DIANA, Princess of Wales, was today preparing to walk through an Angolan minefield as it emerged that her own "war" with the Prince of Wales may be at an end.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that the couple may carry out joint engagements this year despite their divorce. The move is reported to be part of a policy of co-operation designed to protect the future of the monarchy for their sons.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said that the Princess, invited to Angola by the British Red Cross, was "doing her own thing" with regard to official engagements. But he added: "There may be occasions in the future where they will be seen together. This is particularly likely on national days, such as VE and VJ Day, or where the boys are involved. But there is nothing pencilled in at the moment."

The Princess is visiting Angola to raise support for the Red Cross campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines. She accepted the invitation despite having severed her official links with the charity six months ago.

There are 12 million mines, more than the number of the population, sown indiscriminately throughout the west African state which has endured more than 20 years of civil war. More than 70,000 people, including many children, have been maimed by anti-personnel mines. Others have been killed by larger anti-tank mines.

On Wednesday the Princess is due to fly to the city of Huambo, where she will walk along a narrow corridor cleared by experts through a minefield. To the left and to the right of her will be live mines.

In Luanda, the capital, she will visit a Red Cross orthopaedic workshop to see the manufacture and fitting of false limbs. She will also take part in a mines awareness training class.

The Princess has been recruited by Lord Altonborough to appear in a six-minute film about the horror of landmines, to be shown in cinemas.



Zoe Evans: independent

Fears rise for girl, 9, last seen at park

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

POLICE are increasingly concerned about a nine-year-old girl missing since Saturday. A search by police, troops and the public is due to resume today for Zoe Evans, last seen at a park near her home in Warminster, Wiltshire.

Officers from neighbouring forces and a police helicopter were also used in the search yesterday. There was an unconfirmed sighting of Zoe in the evening near Warminster railway station, about a mile from the Army married quarters where she lived with her mother Paula and stepfather Private Miles Evans, a driver with the Royal Logistical Corps. Zoe's natural father is Malaysian.

Superintendent Colin Dixon, who is leading the hunt, said: "This is still a missing person inquiry but obviously somewhat different because of her age. She needs to be a young lady of independent spirit and quite capable of going about her business on her own. She goes shopping and makes purchases on her own."

Mrs Evans last saw Zoe when she went to bed on Friday night. Schoolfriends last saw her at the park playground, which was yesterday a focus of those involved in the search. Inspector Geoff Hicks said last night: "The most worrying thing is that there has been no explanation for her disappearance. There has been no family row."

Retired RAF pilot goes Dutch

A PILOT who had no job to go to when he retired from the RAF aged 38 has become the first foreigner to be appointed commanding officer of a top fighter squadron in the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

Chris Lorraine, who had become a Jaguar pilot and had 16 years' exemplary service, was prepared to look for an airline pilot's job or failing that, something in the City.

While with the RAF, he had worked as an exchange pilot with the Dutch air force. When he said he was returning to Civvy Street, he asked: "Why not stay on with us?" At first, he thought they were joking. They were not; they had been highly impressed with his flying.

Mr Lorraine, who had been second-in-command and had flown on operations over Bosnia, was summoned to see the Dutch air force chief.

Major Chris Lorraine, of the Royal Netherlands Air Force now commands 315 Squadron, equipped with American F16 fighters, at a base near Antwerp. His wife Carol, a former WRAF officer, and children are in Holland too. The family live away from base as is the practice there.

The Ministry of Defence said it was unusual but not unknown for pilots reaching retirement age to transfer to air forces abroad. However, the positions offered were, like those offered by RAF to their own retiring pilots, mainly desk-bound jobs such as press relations.

Fashion victims fall foul of England's new strip

By BILL FROST

A RESTYLED England soccer strip aimed at tens of thousands of young enthusiasts was launched yesterday to cries of foul from short-changed parents.

Replicas of the previous strip sold rapidly over Christmas as up to £70 a time. Now the parents are passed victims of fast-changing fashion in a market worth an estimated £3 billion a year.

Sashaying uncomfortably along a pavement catwalk in Soho, Alan Shearer, the England captain, was wolf-whistled by photographers as he executed a clumsy pirouette in the new home strip. Sheepish in red, white and blue, he described the new "anti-sweat" shirt and shorts as "very smart — a strip I look forward to wearing... if I am chosen for the squad to meet Italy at Wembley in the World Cup qualifying match in February".

Obviously for parents, a pair of aspiring young England stars gave the new strip their unqualified approval. Jack Phillips, 9, and Gino Venosi, 8 — in Soho for the launch and photocall — put in immediate orders.

"It is great and dad is buying me one, at least he had better," Jack said. Gino, obviously an Italy supporter, was equally enthusiastic. "I like the new strip almost as much as Italy's. The shorts are a bit



Alan Shearer in the new England kit, released weeks after fans bought the former strip for Christmas

long though, if you get hot."

David Mellor, the former Tory minister and host of Radio 5 Live's football talk show, called it a "cynical rip-off" by the manufacturers. Umbro, and the Football Association.

Shearer shrugged off the criticism, saying: "The fashion in football kit moves on and there is nothing I can do about that." The Newcastle footballer was particularly happy with a number of measures to improve comfort and durability. The shirt has been given a new coating to draw sweat away from the skin and keep the wearer dry in high humidity or temperature.

Simon Marsh, Umbro marketing manager, said: "We kept the two-year life cycle of the kit and there was very little of the old kit left on the market. We are in an industry that is involved in fashion and fashion changes."

Philip Carling, commercial director of the FA, said it was very pleased with the new kit and would consult supporters on future plans: "We are confident the fans will like it."

The new strip, which goes on sale tomorrow, has been only slightly modified, with minor changes to the sleeves and collar and longer shorts.

It costs £39.99 for an adult shirt and £29.99 for a junior shirt; shorts £21.99 for adults and £15.99 for children; socks £6.99 for adults and £5.99 for children. The prices are unchanged from the former kit.

TUESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Exam failure sells his firm for £7m

A BUSINESSMAN who left school without any O-levels has become a multimillionaire at the age of 33 after selling his computer company.

Tim Roots, who claims he is computer illiterate, made £6 million out of the £7 million sale of his firm, Portable Computers, to the US firm Ecom-Mor Avon, who lives near Stratford-upon-Avon, left school at 16 and admits his reports from Adams Grammar in Wren, Shropshire, and then Steyning Grammar in West Sussex said he lacked concentration.

"All my school reports said I did not work hard enough unless I was interested in something. I suppose I find business interesting because it is always changing so I do not get bored."

"I sat eight O levels but I failed them all. I went to two very good grammar schools but I was more interested in smoking behind the bike sheds at the time."

After success as a salesman and a company manager he set up his computer firm, working with his monies "start small" and "don't borrow". He said: "When I started out I didn't have any money at all. I was married and my wife was pregnant at the time."

Now separated from his wife, but with two children, Mr Roots said his father still grumbled about his lack of qualifications.

"When my dad heard that I was selling the company he said to my brother 'I don't know what he is going to do now, he hasn't any qualifications'. My brother just laughed and said: 'I don't think he will have a problem'."

He believes his lack of formal qualifications spurred him on, but he nevertheless hopes his children will get better exam results. "I did have something to prove, but it is not something that I would recommend."

He plans to take three months off to live out his teenage dream of touring Europe on a motorcycle.

IRA accused of callous disregard for villagers

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA was accused yesterday of endangering the lives of an entire community after mortar bombs were fired at a police station.

Terrorists used two mark 15 mortars, described as difficult to aim, for the attack on Saturday evening in the village of Tempo, Co Fermanagh. One of the bombs smashed into the roof of the unmanned police station and the second overshot the building.

Parents were waiting yards away to collect children from a dance class. Neither of the devices exploded and nobody was injured.

Superintendent James Baxter said that the terrorists had put everyone in the village at risk. "Mark 15 mortars are notoriously inaccurate. The terrorists were only interested in bringing death and destruction to a quiet rural village where there are good community relations."

The IRA gave warning yesterday that it would kill anyone who thwarted their attacks by giving information

to the RUC. It is understood that a series of attacks in Belfast was abandoned recently because Catholics had reported suspicious activity to the police.

A statement to the *Andersonstown News* in West Belfast read: "The Belfast Brigade of the IRA has become aware that a number of people in the Belfast area have compromised operations and placed the lives of volunteers in danger. These individuals have informed the RUC of the presence of volunteers in our area... The IRA will take action against anyone placing the lives of our volunteers in danger in this way."

It is understood that terrorists abandoned a 1,000lb bomb near Belfast Castle after the police were tipped off by a man attending a function at the castle.

□ Multi-party talks at Stormont resume today after the Christmas recess. The Democratic Unionists are likely to call for fringe loyalist parties to be expelled after two loyalist attacks during the holiday.



The burnt-out remains of the van used for the mortar attack on Tempo police station.

Union tells teachers to inform on parents using vouchers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S biggest teaching union is urging its members to inform on parents who intend to use nursery vouchers to transfer their children from state nursery schools.

The National Union of Teachers is distributing a leaflet to local authority nursery and primary schools which could arouse fears among parents that their children might be penalised for attending private nurseries if they apply subsequently for a state school place. It says: "Where teachers become aware that the voucher scheme is likely to encourage the transfer of any of their schools' four-year-old pupils by parents to other forms of provision, they should immediately inform their headteachers."

Nursery vouchers worth £1,100 are being posted to parents of four-year-olds this week. About 30,000 state and private providers have applied to join the system. The NUT pamphlet says that standards

Government inspectors are expected in Calderdale today to begin their first inquiry into an education authority's services for supporting schools. Last year the inspectors declared the Ridings School, Halifax, to be failing its pupils. They criticised some teachers but also accused the Calderdale authority of failing to stop the school's decline.

cannot be guaranteed outside the state sector. The voucher scheme provides insufficient safeguards over staff qualifications, premises and resources, it claims.

The NUT, like other teaching unions and opposition parties, has opposed vouchers as wasteful. The pamphlet, published today, says the scheme is "flawed by its bureaucracy and the potential

it offers to private providers to undermine provision in maintained schools."

The NUT has threatened industrial action if jobs or working conditions are jeopardised when the scheme comes into operation in April. Members have been advised to contact regional officials if they believe that excessive administrative workload is caused. Doug McAvoy, the NUT general secretary, said: "Teachers are in nursery schools to teach, not to cope with the excessive paperwork coming from a politically motivated change which brings no educational benefit."

The Education and Employment Department said state and private providers would be subject to the same quality checks. "The aim is to give parents choice. Parents, not administrators, are best placed to decide what sort of nursery education, whether school, nursery or playgroup, is most suitable."



Anger as 'eccentrics' bring fox to islands

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ECCECENTRIC animal lovers were accused of posing a serious threat to native wildlife on Scotland's remote islands yesterday by introducing alien species.

For the first time, sightings of foxes on Shetland are being taken seriously following the discovery of a dead fox at Brae. It had been shot, and Scottish Natural Heritage has asked for a report on the animal's stomach contents to try to discover whether it had been kept as a pet.

Foxes are not native to Shetland nor the Western Isles. George Anderson, of SNH, says: "Evidence from the Hebrides suggests there are a few ill-informed eccentrics who like having these species around and released them into the wild."

Agnes Leask, vice president of the Scottish Crofters Union, who lives on Shetland, said: "There are concerns about lambs but of greater concern is the wildlife." There have been several sightings of foxes on the Western Isles, where hedgehogs are already posing problems for many species of ground nesting birds. Alison Cunningham, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said hedgehogs were introduced on Uist by a teacher who brought them from the mainland to show to her class. The hedgehogs now feast on the eggs of birds such as the dunlin, greenshank, golden plover and ringed plover.

'Cheaper tourists clogging streets'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TOURISTS arriving on ferries and Eurostar who spend little, enjoy free attractions, and clog up the streets of historic cities should be taxed on entering the country, according to the foreword of the official handbook of Britain published today.

High-spending tourists, on the other hand, should be encouraged for the positive economic benefits they bring.

The Earl of Bradford, author of the foreword, writes of the danger of the uncontrolled invasion of tourists in places such as Canterbury, Oxford and York amid of the traffic nightmare in London during busy times. A major problem facing the capital was trying to differentiate between those tourists bringing positive economic benefits and those that "merely clog up the streets".

"Coaches full of day-trippers from across the Channel, arriving with their packed lunches and itineraries of free attractions, could actually end up costing the country more than they bring in."

Lord Bradford, writing in a personal capacity, said: "Perhaps those arriving on ferry terminals and Eurotunnel should, like airline passengers, be obliged to pay some sort of tax, so that the country would at least be assured of a contribution towards the infrastructure costs generated by the 'cheaper' traveller."

Lord Bradford, who manages his family estate in Shropshire and owns a restaurant in Covent Garden, told *The Times* that it was very noticeable that many people were coming by coach for a day trip. "They have very often got their own packed lunch. They bring very little economic benefit. But one high-spending US tourist could be worth ten times in economic value of the coachload coming just for the free attractions."

The handbook is widely used as a reference work abroad and the Central Office of Information emphasised that Lord Bradford's foreword was his own viewpoint.

New clue to extent of man's vanity

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BRACELET made 4,000 years ago which was discovered on a remote Scottish island is believed to have travelled 750 miles from the South of England, casting new light on the vanity of prehistoric man.

The bracelet is one of only a few in Scotland to be discovered intact from the period 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. It was found by archaeology students from Edinburgh University excavating a Bronze Age home on Uig on the west side of the Isle of Lewis. The only route to the island was a causeway that gave it protection from enemies and wild animals such as wolves.

Made from shale, the bracelet was found a few inches beneath the surface close to a wall near the entrance to the

small oval home. The dwelling has also revealed pottery, hammer stones and some metal work.

The nearest place for shale is several hundred miles away across the sea at Golspie on Scotland's east coast. But tests have now revealed that the shale in the bracelet is not from that site, but from a type found in the South of England. The bracelet is evidence that a trade in exotic goods existed 4,000 years ago and was made possible by perilous journeys were across the Minch.

Chris Burgess, one of the archaeologists, said that the bracelet could have been worn by a woman or a man, but was clearly a status symbol. "To have travelled so far it was clearly an important gift and a quite remarkable journey," he said.



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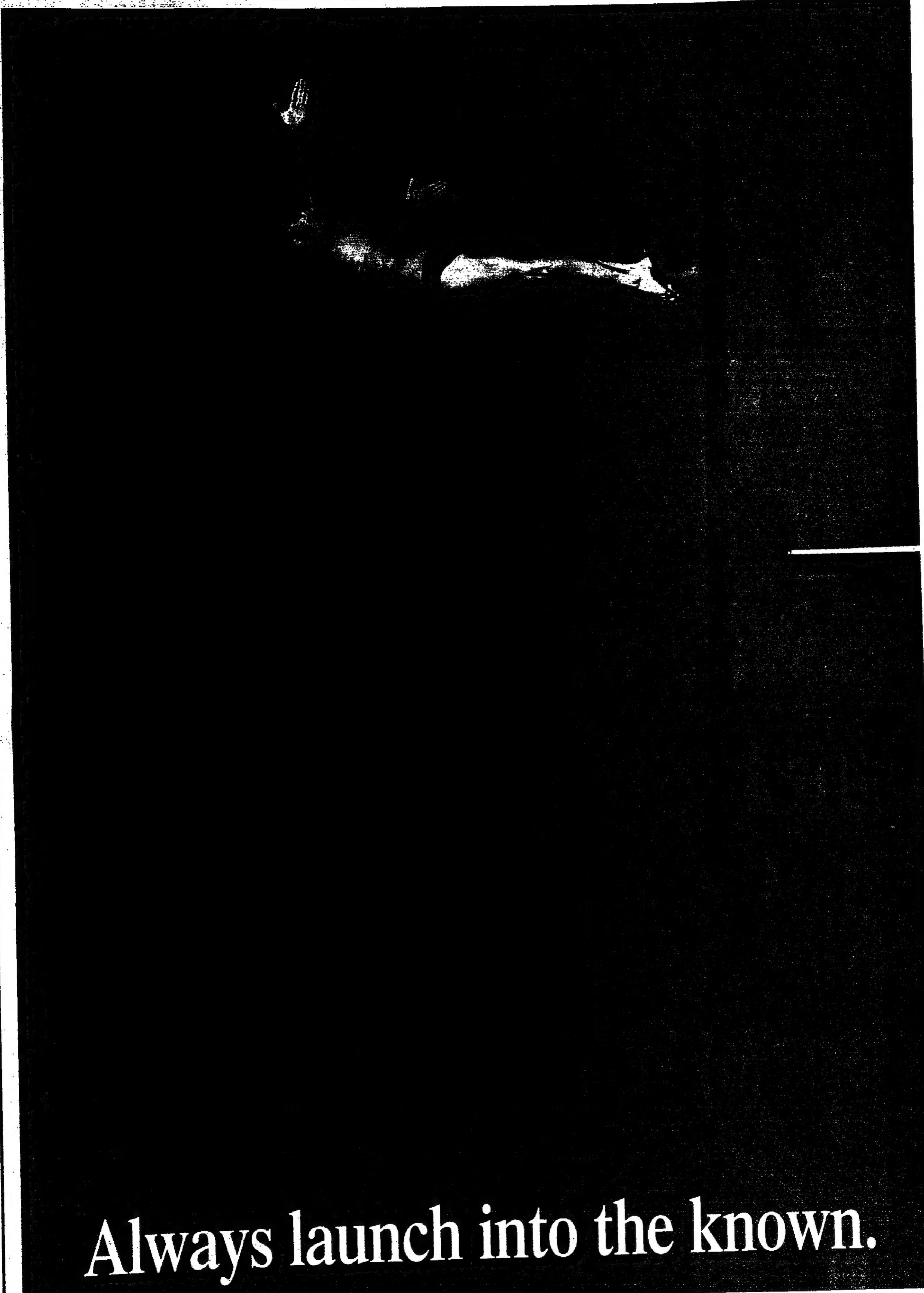
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US mediator delays return to Washington after Jordan convenes hasty summit with Israeli leader

King Husain steps in to save talks over Hebron

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LAST-DITCH efforts to save the Middle East peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians were being made last night at a summit between King Husain of Jordan and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

News of the hastily convened meeting was disclosed by Jordan hours after an announcement that Dennis Ross, the United States peace envoy, was due to return to Washington. Last night, however, Mr Ross was said to have cancelled those plans. His decision could have resulted from King Husain's summit effort. A US official said there could be "a meeting between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat" today.

The emergency summit came after King Husain's first official visit to the Gaza Strip yesterday for talks with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President. Mr Arafat's top aides have issued a warning of potential "explosions" if rapid action is not taken to save the peace process.

King Husain stepped in and



Yasser Arafat and King Husain in the Gaza Strip meet Rabbi Moshe Hirsch of Neturai Karta, an anti-Zionist group

was trying to exert his influence after Mr Ross' failure to bridge the wide differences between Israel and the Palestinians.

The American failure to effect a Hebron withdrawal and shore-up the wider Middle East peace process led Egypt to warn Israel that their 1979 peace treaty would end if there was no deal with Syria.

Shortly before the Husain-Netanyahu summit was announced, Nabil Shaath, a leading Palestinian minister, appealed to President Clinton to intervene to save the peace accord, originally signed on the White House lawn in 1993.

The Palestinians have accused Mr Netanyahu of reneging on clauses in the accord that they claimed required Israeli troops to evacuate from 80 per cent of the West Bank by last September. Israel insists on delaying the move by two years to May 1999.

The Palestinian Authority appealed yesterday for European help to save the peace process, before frustration among its people led to re-

newed violence. "There is a crisis in the Israeli-Palestinian talks," it said. "If the international community does not move immediately to save the peace process... then the whole region will witness explosions."

Palestinian officials had accused Mr Ross of a pro-Israel bias for his proposal of a compromise date of 1998 for the three further Israeli withdrawals that should follow the exit from Hebron.

Hasan Asfour, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, told Voice of Palestine radio that American mediation had been forced on the Palestinians. He said that under the new state of crisis "all options are open, and it is difficult to determine one future path for certain. We are at a very dangerous situation, and a grave one politically."

Egypt's warning about the possible collapse of the 1979 Camp David peace treaty, the

first between Israel and an Arab state, was delivered by Muhammad Bassiouni, the Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv. It came after Israeli military concern about large-scale Egyptian military exercises and a series of anti-Semitic attacks on Mr Netanyahu in the Egyptian media.

In an interview with *Hashavua*, a right-wing Israeli paper, the envoy said: "The agreement between Egypt and Israel will collapse should Israel not sign an agreement with Syria."

The warning came after sabre-ranting between Jerusalem and Damascus, which accused Israel of being behind a bus bomb in the Syrian capital on New Year's Eve which killed 13 people and wounded 40. Mr Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected the Syrian condition for renewed peace talks — a pledge to hand back the strategic Golan Heights, captured in 1967.

Foreign officials scramble to sway American policy

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WITH hopes of a Middle East peace plummeting, the region's top diplomats have made unprecedented efforts to influence American policy.

President Clinton was under increasing pressure last night from Arabs to exert pressure on the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu to withdraw Israeli troops from Hebron.

Concerned by the meeting that Mr Clinton granted Hassan Ashrawi, the Palestinian Authority's Education Minister, last week, Elisha Ben-Elissar, the Israeli Ambassador to America, made a highly provocative attack against Egypt, accusing Cairo of encouraging Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, of stalling on a Hebron deal and of urging other Arab countries not to normalise relations with Jerusalem.

"Unfortunately, the Egyptians have not been enthusiastic during this process for their own reasons," he said. "Israel's road to normal relations [with Oman and Qatar] has stalled... we have found some Egyptian fingerprints along the way."

Yesterday, Ahmed Maher el-Sayed, the Egyptian Ambassador to America, described the allegations against his country as entirely baseless. "Egypt is steadfast

in the quest for peace, even when Israelis complain it is a cold peace," he said. "We agreed to normal relations... until this new Israeli Government, there was steady movement towards trust and understanding."

During the past years of the Clinton Administration, the region's diplomats have been careful not to enter the fray. But the distrust between all sides is clear in their latest attempts to influence the thinking of the President.

Mr Clinton, who is eager to make his mark by achieving a breakthrough in Middle East peace, is known to be unhappy with the course that has been taken by the Government of Mr Netanyahu.



Ashrawi: was granted a meeting with Clinton

Tide turns against Clinton over sex harassment suit

By TOM RHODES

AMERICAN opinion is turning against President Clinton over the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit which is to be considered by the Supreme Court today.

Two separate polls to be published this morning show that a majority of Americans would not delay the case brought by Mrs Jones, 39, a former Arkansas state government employee, and that more than a third of the public now believe Mr Clinton did sexually harass her.

Two years ago less than a third of the population believed the claim by Mrs Jones that in 1991 she was led by an Arkansas state trooper to meet Mr Clinton, then Governor, in his room at the Executive Hotel in Little Rock.

Once alone in his suite, she alleged, the Governor started kissing her neck before he dropped his trousers and un-

derwear and asked her to perform oral sex. Mr Clinton has said he does not remember the incident.

The Supreme Court will today consider whether to allow the case to proceed while Mr Clinton is still in office. Mrs Jones is seeking \$700,000 (£427,000) damages for defamation and violation of her civil rights.

A Time/CNN survey found that 56 per cent of Americans felt Mrs Jones should be allowed to continue with her suit. A separate poll conducted by *Newsweek* showed that 37 per cent of the population believe Mrs Jones compared with 23 per cent two years ago.

Mrs Jones has ordered her lawyers to "get me my day in court" while Mr Clinton is using a legal team whose costs so far have risen to at least \$15 million. Costs are being met by two insurance

companies and a multi-million-dollar fund.

Until very recently Mrs Jones had failed to influence public opinion although at least two of her close friends and two relatives have said she described the encounter with Mr Clinton to them on the day it allegedly happened.

A former boyfriend had sold partially nude photographs of her to *Penthouse* magazine and her older sister and brother-in-law expressed scepticism about her story. But articles in *Newsweek* and the *American Lawyer* have given greater credence to her claims, sparking a bitter response from Clinton supporters.

"The amount of revisionist history going on in this case is astounding," said George Stephanopoulos, the adviser who recently left the White House but will be at the Supreme Court today.

Black war veteran to receive top medal

By TOM RHODES

MORE than half a century after the event, a former US Army lieutenant today becomes the only living black soldier who served in the Second World War to receive the country's most prestigious battlefield medal.

Vernon Baker, 77, will be awarded the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony. Six of his black compatriots are to receive the decoration posthumously.

The awards are being made after a special team of military historians in the United States concluded that segregation and the prevailing attitude at the time had resulted in none of the 1.7 million serving blacks receiving any of the 432 medals awarded during the war.

Mr Baker was a lieutenant in the all-black 92nd Infantry called the Buffalo Division when on April 5, 1945, his platoon of 25 men was ordered to lead the fight for Castel Aghinolfi, a German stronghold in Italy. Lieutenant Baker destroyed five German machinegun nests and an artillery observation bun-



Baker: "I did my job and was rewarded"

ker during a skirmish which his white company commander, Captain John Runyon, went off to find reinforcements, leaving Lieutenant Baker and the rest of the soldiers to face three enemy attacks.

Captain Runyon was later nominated for the Medal of Honor while his deputy, Lieutenant Baker, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The former soldier, who now lives in Idaho, said yesterday that before he was notified about the ceremony, he had been unaware that his name had been singled out by the panel.

"I did my job and was rewarded. As far as I was concerned that was it," he said. "The action happened in 1945... in the interim, there have been a lot of memories and things I have suppressed. I tried to put the war behind me years ago and now that it's been dug up I can put it behind me forever."

Deal puts Disney boss in fairytale pay league

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE Walt Disney Company has shown that nothing pays like wholesome family entertainment, renewing its chairman's contract for ten years on terms that could push his total earnings close to a billion dollars.

Michael Eisner has turned Disney into the world's most profitable entertainment empire since taking on the ailing concern in 1984. In return for agreeing to stay until 2006 he has been promised shares and cash worth more than \$200 million (£118 million), excluding bonuses that last year alone amounted to a further \$7.9 million.

Announcing Mr Eisner's deal, the company gave his new batch of eight million Disney share options a hypothetical value of \$195 million, though if he sustains recent growth rates they could be worth far more by the time he is free to cash them in.

Mr Eisner, who two years ago underwent multiple heart-bypass surgery, is estimated to have reaped \$600 million so far, including \$303 million in stock options that matured in September. He is among America's most scrutinised and envied executives.

He has brought vast profits through the relentless global promotion of Disney icons from Mickey Mouse to *Toy Story's* Buzz Lightyear from celluloid to cuddly toys.

His Achilles' heel, analysts say, is the lack of an heir — a problem that worsened last month when Michael Ovitz, his friend and second-in-command, left after 14 months.

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To begin a career, there is still no substitute for university. To change it takes courage,

At last, something to celebrate

1997 January

New Year
New Job

With demand for graduates outstripping supply, university is the path to a good career. But should students choose arts or science, asks Anjana Ahuja

Deciding whether to go to university — and what to study there if you do — is one of the most momentous decisions a young person can make. The problem is assessing whether three years of grim student flats, Oxfam shops, late-night cramming and insults from taxi drivers is worth it. Is your detailed knowledge of Proust, naval history or the second law of thermodynamics really going to set a prospective employer's pulse racing?

Some argue that young people benefit more from apprenticeship-style jobs or vocational training: earning a salary while learning something that will be of genuine use to a prospective employer. But on top of the cultural and social advantages, a university degree is likely to be your most potent weapon when it comes to finding a job.

Last week, an annual survey by the Association for Graduate Recruiters forecast that vacancies for graduates will grow by 11.5 per cent this year, and this will prompt employers to push up starting salaries.

The reason is that business is going global. To become world-class enterprises, they need to recruit the best people. At the very least, that means good-quality graduates. There has never been a better time, it seems, to pack your bags and head off to the ivory towers.

Once you have decided that university is for you, one of the first problems you will face is whether to study arts or sciences. So, if you are about to decide, which way should you go? From a down-to-earth point of view, doing a science or engineering degree could be a shrewd move. The steady decline in gifted recruits to these fields has led to a shortfall in a number of professions, notably teaching. According to the simple rules of supply and demand, this imbalance ought soon to be reflected in the salaries offered.

For those committed to such disciplines, a science subject could also be a passport to a leading university, according to statistics released by Cambridge and Oxford Universities. Applicants for the natural sciences degree at Cambridge have a better than one-in-three chance of success — not bad odds if you fancy sharing your alma mater with arguably the greatest scientist in history, Sir Isaac Newton.

At Oxford University, one in two applicants for biological sciences courses secures a place — and the chances of gaining admission to read chemistry are better than 50:50. Physics offers a better than one-in-three chance, while earth sciences and engineering both offer a better than even chance of getting in.

These contrast favourably with Oxford and Cambridge degrees such as law, English and economics. But both medicine and veterinary medicine, which demand excellent science A levels, are still notoriously hard to break into.

Would-be doctors stand only a 14 per cent chance of securing a place.

If you feel you can commit yourself for three years but are not sure what you want to do afterwards, do not despair. There is a growing acceptance of science subjects in unrelated areas — and therefore more scope for switching careers after university. Employers in the world of banking and finance have been particularly quick to recognise the value of technical degrees.

All the big accountancy firms, plus merchant and investment banks, are very keen to recruit science and engineering graduates, which is why they always target our institution," says John Simpson, director of the careers service at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. "A lot of the training, such as the high level of numeracy, is relevant to finance. And nearly all our graduates are highly computer literate."

Towers Perrin, an international finance company, recruits graduates each year to train as actuaries — mathematical whiz-kids who assess long-term risks and probabilities for the insurance and pensions industries. Its selection criteria are strict — at least an upper second honours degree in a scientific or numerate discipline, plus at least grade B in A-level mathematics.

"Graduates in these disciplines are extremely attractive right across the finance industry," says Heather Smith, from Towers Perrin in London. "Our recruits need to be extremely good because the training is tough. The actuarial exams are regarded by many as harder than accountancy exams and take an average of seven years to complete, although our average is about four years."

Actuaries are well-regarded and highly respected in the industry. It may be difficult to make it but once they do, the world is their oyster with salaries to match.

Andersen Consulting in London is a well-known management consultancy company which appreciates science and engineering graduates. Out of its annual intake of 300 graduates, 55 per cent come from these disciplines.

"Science is very good at training people to think in a certain way," explains Sam Clark, graduate recruitment manager at Andersen Consulting. "They are taught to be logical, and to analyse problems. They are also computer literate. All these skills are very useful to us because our clients have a wide range of problems."

She adds: "We do particularly well with the engineering disciplines, because there is usually a commercial element to the training. Engineers have a good blend of scientific and business skills, which is highly valued."



Celebrating an end to years of student poverty, and saying hello to a brighter future

The prospect of switching career may seem daunting, but a change can be as good as a rest

For most people, January means a reluctant return to work after the festive season rather than a time for making fundamental changes. Yet it was almost exactly a year ago that I chose to change careers. I was teaching politics at Christ Church, Oxford, and had been a lecturer at the university for almost six years. I now write for *The Times*.

I had several reasons for making the switch. Although I enjoyed the company of my students and was fond of the college, I felt frustrated in my work. There seemed little chance of advancing my career and little that I could do to increase my prospects.

I was increasingly irritated by the trends within my profession, where my interest in questions such as "who wins elections" and "what becomes policy" were regarded with curiosity by colleagues obsessed by arcane methodology. That the university seemed to be slipping into a swamp of political correctness symbolised to me by the dubious decision to abolish its entrance examination, simply compounded the issue. The logical option was to get out.

Of course, there were financial factors as well. There are plenty of young lecturers working in Oxford for less than £15,000. Even the post of professor, normally only reached after 30 years of scholastic endeavour, comes in at barely more than £35,000. In an industry where a doctorate is becoming essential, this must represent the worst quid-per-qualification ratio in British employment.

There are compensations in terms of social prestige, of course. I found the words "Oxford don" a surprisingly effective chat-up line at parties. However, cash ultimately carries more clout than cachet. I had no objection to working for love and peanuts, provided — Barclays Bank would accept these in lieu of the mortgage repayments. Unfortunately it would not.

By far the worst part of my career change was making the decision to do it. I discovered an almost inexhaustible set of reasons to delay, setting myself deadlines by which to make a firm choice, then finding excuses to "redefine" them. On far too many occasions I swore to myself that unless I was offered such-and-such a position, or unless the university refused to back the latest ill-advised reform, that was it. I would be off. I have heard similar stories of procrastination from almost everyone I know who has left academic life. In the end, it was the symbolism of my 30th birthday and the fear that further delay would deprive me of a decent run at a second career that settled it.

So why did changing careers seem so daunting? One reason was that university teaching is, to put it mildly, rather an unstructured form of employment. The scheduling of teaching was largely a matter for me. Large chunks of the year involved the university vacation and hence research and writing. I had no "boss" to speak of, nor for that matter any staff at my disposal. My career switch would inevitably involve an encounter with what my wife drily reminded me was the "real world" of pre-existing structures and formalised routine. Worse still, I would actually be responsible to someone. Although journalism had the virtue of being less rigid than I imagine accountancy, banking or the law to be, culture shock was still certain.

Added to this were the practical implications. As my children were settled in Oxford schools that we were very satisfied with, and I saw no good reason for their lives to be inconvenienced, I would have to join the throng who commuted daily to London — a journey made longer by the fact that Wapping lies east of the City, making prolonged exposure to the London Underground inevitable. Given the horror stories I had heard from many others about life as the hapless hostage of public transport, this was a distinctly unappealing prospect.

Six months on, though, the advantages of my career change have far outweighed the drawbacks. The weeks immediately after I agreed to join *The Times* were marked by a powerful wave of elation and liberation. Frustration has largely been displaced by a new sense of adventure. My new post has allowed me to think and write across much wider terrain than I ever did in Oxford.

TTrue, there are some disadvantages. The physical surroundings have proved a contrast. Oxford is blessed with some beauty, a side of the city I have come to appreciate rather more for working elsewhere. When I was at Christ Church, my teaching rooms were in the base of Tom Tower, built by Christopher Wren, and my windows looked out on the magnificence of a quadrangle designed for Cardinal Wolsey. The News International plant is not quite in the same league, either for history or for architectural splendour.

Here I sit in a windowless, air-conditioned box looking out at Mary Ann Sieghart. And then there is commuting — not the train from Oxford to London, which I find both relaxing and very conducive to work, but the Underground. At times it can take as long to get across London as to travel the 60 or so miles to it.

Despite these distractions, though, I know I made the right choice last January. In retrospect, I should have had the courage of my convictions much earlier. If others recognise the symptoms of career angst identified here, then my advice would be to take similar risks. The frustration that you are selling yourself short has a corrosive power that goes well beyond the workplace. A change is not merely as good as a rest, it is considerably better.



TIM FLAHERTY

When childhood dreams turn to adult careers

ANDREW MOTION: Poet Up until the age of 12 I wanted to open the batting for England. And when that subsided I spent the next four years, bizarrely enough, wanting to be a priest. It was not through any particular religious fervour, but rather because it sounded like a nice life — I wanted to live in the country and write and do a bit of fishing. I wanted to be George Herbert. At 16 this strange ambition disappeared, and I realised I could write without being a priest. I had taken no interest in school work until I was 15 or 16, and then, early in my A-level course, I came across the Hardy poem *The Self-Unseeing*. It was so simple and yet so fascinating, it made the hairs on my neck stand on end and did all the things poetry should do. I set about writing poems in the school magazine, and winning poetry prizes: published my first work outside school at 18, and my first book at 23. Poetry is something that chooses you, you do not choose it. I was at school in the early years of careers advice and when asked, at 15, what I wanted to be I said: "A poet." It's a bit embarrassing to recall this 30 years later, but that's how it was. I worked as a teacher after university and then as a publisher in London in the 1980s, but there was never any question of my being derailed. Poetry is at the centre of my existence, that may sound pretentious, but it is all I ever considered doing.



Motion: drawn to poetry

1980s, but there was never any question of my being derailed. Poetry is at the centre of my existence, that may sound pretentious, but it is all I ever considered doing.

JAMES DYSON: Inventor I was the victim of an education system that buttholes children at the earliest possible age and restricts their potential to a single direction for ever. I was keen on practical things but at that time there was no CDT (craft, design and technology), and woodwork was perceived as a thing done by "thickies" in a shed. The careers adviser told me to be an estate agent because I liked being outdoors, and when I told my head I was going to art school, he said: "Jolly good, you'll be better off without a degree round your neck." I got into the RCA to study furniture and I became interested in product design. I wanted to be involved in the whole of the product, to create the technology as well as the look. Struggling against the notion that artists are clothed with no idea of technology, I taught myself engineering and hydrodynamics, designing a plastic assault craft called the *Sea Truck*. It was my graduation piece and made millions in production. I then invented the Ballbarrow, which took a 50 per cent share of the wheelbarrow market in three years, and went on to develop the bagless vacuum cleaner, and dominate that market as well. My company is the fastest-growing manufacturing business in Britain — an inspiration, I hope, to flackies in sheds everywhere. Interviews by Giles Coren



Dyson: inspired inventor

well. My company is the fastest-growing manufacturing business in Britain — an inspiration, I hope, to flackies in sheds everywhere. Interviews by Giles Coren

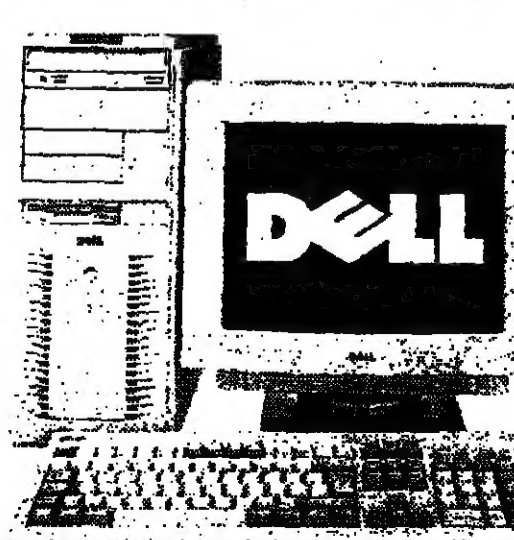
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and if you are brave you may even decide to work with your friends

How to get on top of the job

Mariella Frostrup on how giving up office work does not always lead to domestic bliss

For the third day running I was still in my pyjamas at 7pm. My living room was littered with an explosion of debris that would not have looked out of place in a squat. It included overflowing ashtrays, empty coffee mugs, my dirty breakfast cereal bowl and an empty packet of Shreddies.

These were the last edible things in my larder and I had been eating them straight from the box since the milk ran out at noon. I would have to get dressed after all if I wanted a sandwich.

It was my third month of working from home.

My years of being office-bored, from which I had been desperate to escape, had begun to induce a sense of nostalgia. Remembering the days of sharing the cappuccino run and exchanging gossip nearly brought me to tears.

I remembered the thrill, after a day at work, of coming home to a tidy living room and settling in for a night glued to the television.

Now, I could not find my television. It was buried under a mass of newspapers, bills, letters and books; all of which I had been intending to file for weeks. The answer machine was blinking 20 unread messages and only two minutes of tape left. If I had called the police I would have had no trouble convincing them that my apartment had been ransacked. The time had come for serious action.

The problem was, what were the alternatives? Should I phone around my friends to see if anyone had a spare desk in their office? If by a stroke of luck they did it was bound to be open plan in which case, would I get anything done? Should I rent an office of my own, somewhere? Rents starting at £250 a week soon put me off that idea.

I was at a loss until a message came through in early June of last year from my friend and neighbour Emma Freud. "Hello it's Emma, we've had a brilliant idea and I need to talk to you about it." A brilliant idea, what could it be? I called back immediately. "Richard [Curtis - her partner] and I have found a wonderful office space just off Portobello Road. We think it would be great to get a bunch of freelance people together who are sick of working from home and make a co-operative."

The woman is psychic, I thought, as I hurried to have a look. It was perfect. A spacious, light main room leading to many little box rooms made infinitely more habitable by the huge south windows they boasted. It could not have been better. It was cheap, close to house

and somebody else was going to organise it.

Emma had already decided on the decor - wooden floorboards and white walls. It was budget rather than style that dictated her choice, but the result was perfect. We would supply our own furniture, she and Richard the phone system.

Two months later a motley crew of friends and acquaintances moved into what was now grandly named "Portobello Studios".

Emma ransacked Ikea and returned triumphant with the biggest desk we had ever seen. My room was the first to be furnished because I could not wait to move the accumulated muck from home.

Ruby Wax insisted that all she wanted was a futon and a little cloud over her head. Eventually, having strained her back trying to type lying down, she gave in and bought a desk.

Sally Brampton, the writer, was the only person working. While we lounged

around in what had become the living room thanks to a generous donation of two sofas, she could be heard clacking away on her computer.

Slowly things settled down and giddy excitement turned to a nagging worry about the ratio of work to socialising. Friday afternoons were devoted to sharing our tales of woe from the preceding week. An enormous bar of chocolate, bought with petty cash, was awarded to whoever

had suffered most.

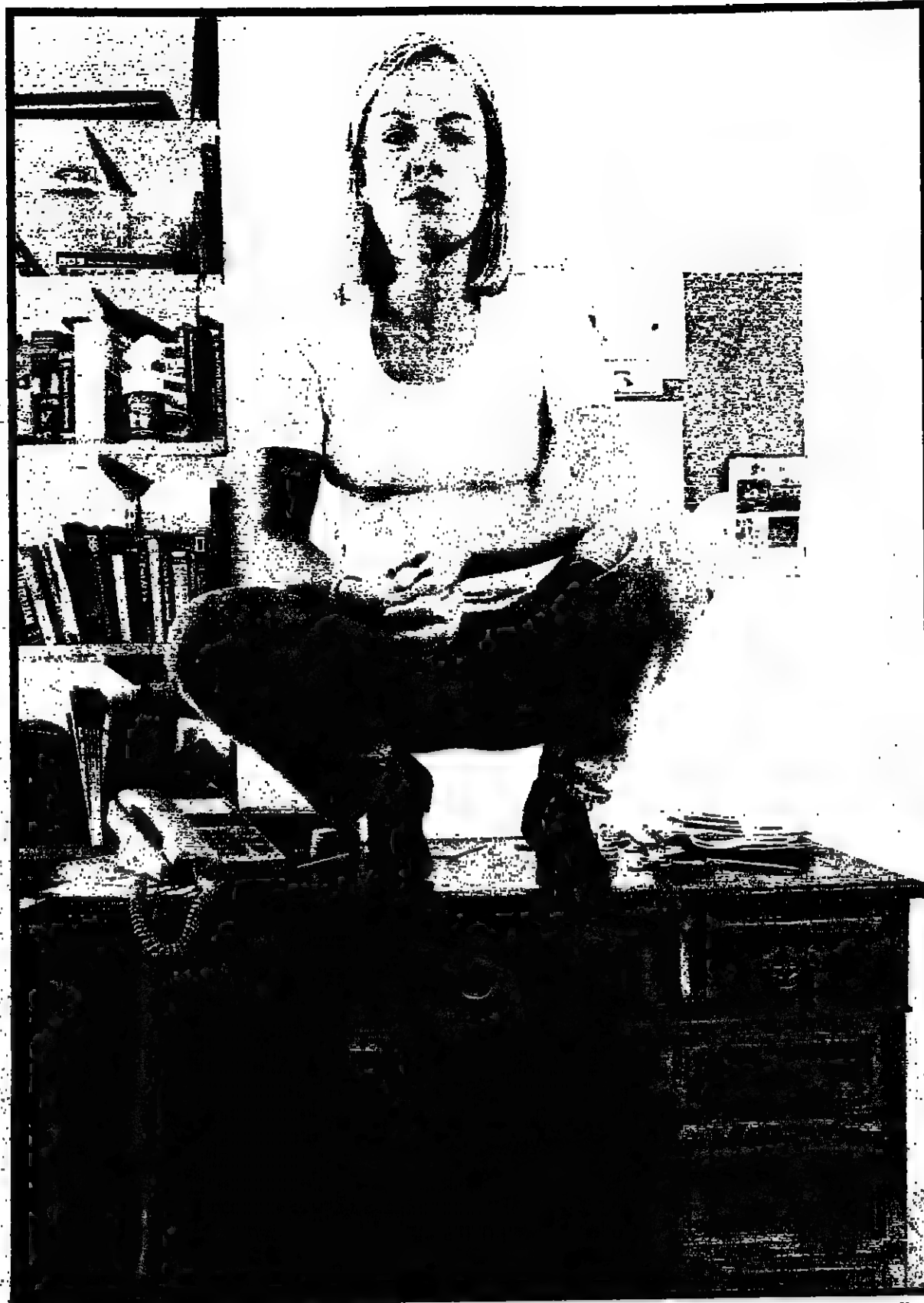
When Peter Godwin, another of our strong, won the Esquire Non-Fiction Award for *Muktiwa*, Helen Fielding won the chocolate to help her get over the disappointment.

The fact that her book *Bridget Jones's Diary* was fiction and not eligible did not seem to matter.

Four months later the heady days of the chocolate award and the communal lottery ticket are behind us. The office has become a refuge, a place where the phone is mainly for calls out and we have the peace to get on with our work.

I have a reason to get dressed in the morning and discipline has returned to my formerly chaotic life. It feels like having a proper job but with all the freedom that self-employment brings.

My office now resembles my old living room, with overflowing ashtrays and old coffee cups but there's home to escape to after work. Most importantly, with my piles of paperwork now cluttering my office, I have been able to find my telecommuting path: life would be perfect if I could find something worth watching.



After working from home, Mariella Frostrup has decided that an office environment promotes self-discipline

Tomorrow

NEW YEAR

WORKING FROM HOME
the ideal solution - or the route to loneliness?



Wednesday

NEW YEAR

CAREER BREAKS
and how to take them

Thursday

NEW YEAR

Dr Thomas Stuttford on work and health - and don't miss our definitive APPOINTMENTS SECTION
with a nationwide selection of jobs from graduate level to executive positions

From the law to the pulpit

Even as he started his articles with a firm of solicitors in Gravesend, Kent, William Agley was considering becoming a priest. "I realised that the thoughts would never go away until I'd given it a go," he says. "There was nothing

Beverley Kemp meets a solicitor who has decided to become a priest

to lose because I already had a profession I could return to if I discovered the priesthood wasn't for me."

Four and a half years ago, after qualifying as a lawyer, he entered a seminary in Guildford, Surrey. Now aged 28, he becomes a deacon on June 28 and will be ordained in 1998.

"When I was at school, I thought about the priesthood, but it's generally recommended that you do something else first," he says. "Law had always been a subject I was interested in. Obviously there are a lot of things I miss now I am in the seminary. I'd become quite close to some of my colleagues in the firm, and I miss that feeling of camaraderie and the general hubbub of criminal law. If I'm being honest, I also miss the income. My salary as a newly qualified lawyer was £18,000. My grant now is £850."

"But accommodation and food are free, and students usually work throughout the holidays. Everyone in the seminary is in the same boat, so there's no pressure to live above your means. We all understand that we can't afford to go out for expensive meals twice a week."

"One of the most difficult aspects for me has been celibacy. I'd be lying if I said it was always going to be easy. Priests are human beings, after all. I've had to ask myself the question: 'Can I freely choose this?' I have never had a long-term relationship and I do believe in celibacy."

"In an exclusive partnership between two people, your love is directed to another person. But in celibacy, I take comfort from the fact that I

am able to offer the love that I might have given to a partner more widely and also receive it from the people I will be serving in my parish."

"Getting married and having a family were certainly things I often thought about before. The reality that I will never have my own family has been particularly hard to deal with. Fortunately, I have a niece and a nephew whom I love very much. There are still times when I feel broody, but deep inside I know that if I were engaged in bringing up a family, or in a sexual relationship, I would never be able to give all of myself."

"I derive a lot of emotional support from intimate, non-sexual relationships with friends. Many of those friendships have deepened since I entered the seminary. People close to me have asked me several soul-searching questions, and I've been forced to reveal a lot of personal information about myself. My friends have been totally supportive."

"At first, my parents were very upset about my decision. My father felt that I was throwing away a good job and a stable future. My mother had the usual maternal concerns such as: 'Who's going to look after you when you're old?' But they seem much happier about the idea these days. Only recently, my mother told me that she sees now that I am much happier."

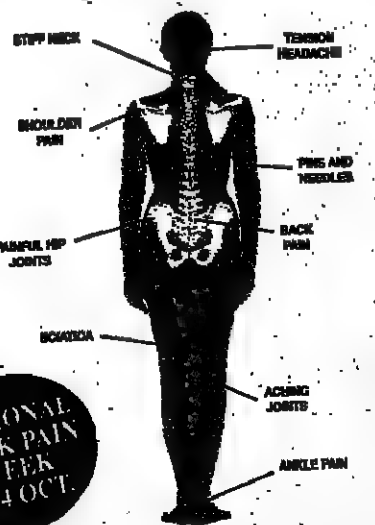
"I have been called by God to follow a way of life which I believe is the right path for me, and I consider that a very powerful gift. Not many people have the opportunity to do what makes them truly happy in life."



William Agley: "Priests are still human beings, after all"

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The Private Anne Frank

THE ANNE FRANK HOUSE, BASLE, SWITZERLAND

Hiding from the Nazis, Anne Frank and Peter van Daan discovered the first stirrings of adolescent love. Extracts from her diary, suppressed until now because of their sometimes painful candour, describe their unfolding friendship

Otto Frank
Anne's father

FROM June 12, 1942, to August 1, 1944, when, aged 15, she was arrested by the Nazis, Anne Frank kept an intimate diary. It was a record of her life in hiding, cloistered in a secret annexe at 263 Prinsengracht, Amsterdam, with her parents, sister Margot, and four others. Mr and Mrs van Daan, their son, Peter and, later, a dentist, Mr Dussel. A child when she entered the annexe, by the time she was taken to her death in Belsen, Anne had become a young woman with a burning ambition to write. After the war Otto Frank decided to honour his daughter's wish and publish her diaries. In 1947, it was not usual for a young girl to write about sex, and he omitted passages dealing with this. Out of respect for the dead, he also left out unflattering descriptions of other inhabitants of the annexe. These passages, now restored in a definitive edition of the diaries, are printed in heavy type.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1942
Peter van Daan arrived at 9.30 in the morning. Peter's going on 16, a shy, awkward boy whose company won't amount to much. Mr and Mrs van Daan came half an hour later. Much to our amusement, Mrs van Daan was carrying a hatbox with a large chamber



Peter van Daan's room. "When I have gone to Peter's room during the day, I've always thought it was nice and cosy," wrote Anne. But she never dared to stay too long

pot inside. "I just don't feel at home without my chamber pot," she exclaimed, and it was the first item to find a permanent place under the divan. Instead of a chamber pot, Mr van D. was lugging a collaps-

ible tea table under his arm.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1942
I don't think Peter's got any nicer. He's an obnoxious boy who lies around on his bed all day, only rousing himself to

do a little carpentry work before returning to his nap. What a twit!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1942
Mr and Mrs van Daan have

had a terrible argument. I've never seen anything like it, since Mother and Father wouldn't dream of shouting at each other like that. The argument was based on something so trivial it didn't seem worth wasting a single word on it. Oh well, to each his own. Of course, it's very difficult for Peter, who gets caught in the middle, but no one takes Peter seriously any more, since he's hypersensitive and lazy. Yesterday he was beside himself with worry because his tongue was blue instead of pink.

This rare phenomenon disappeared as quickly as it came. Today he's walking around with a thick scarf on because he's got a stiff neck. His Highness has been complaining of lumbago, too. Aches and pains in his heart, kidneys and lungs are also par for the course. He's an absolute hypochondriac (that's the right word, isn't it?).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1942
A lamp has been mounted above my divan bed so that in the future, when I hear the guns going off, I'll be able to pull a cord and switch on the light. I can't use it at the moment because we're keeping our window open a little, day and night.

The male members of the van Daan contingent have built a very handy wooden stained food safe, with real screens. Up till now this glorious cupboard has been located in Peter's room, but in the interests of fresh air it's been moved to the attic where it once stood. There's now a shelf. I advised Peter to put his table underneath the shelf, add a nice rug and hang his own cupboard where the table now stands. That might make his little cubbyhole more comfy, though I certainly wouldn't like to sleep there.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1944
My longing for someone to talk to has become so unbearable that I somehow took it into my head to select Peter for this role. On the few occasions

when I have gone to Peter's room during the day, I've always thought it was nice and cosy. But Peter's too polite to show someone the door when they're bothering him, so I've never dared to stay long. I've always been afraid he'd think I was a pest. I've been looking for an excuse to linger in his room and get him talking without his noticing, and yesterday I got my chance. Peter, you see, is currently going through a crossword-puzzle craze, and he doesn't do anything else all day. I was helping him, and we soon ended up sitting across from each other at his table. Peter on the chair and me on the divan.

It gave me a wonderful feeling when I looked into his dark blue eyes and saw how bashful my unexpected visit had made him. I could read his innermost thoughts, and in his face I saw a look of helplessness and uncertainty as to how to behave, and at the same time a flicker of awareness of his masculinity. I saw his shyness, and I melted. I wanted to say, "Tell me about yourself. Look beneath my chatty exterior." But I found that it was easier to think up questions than to ask them.

The evening came to a close, and nothing happened, except that I told him about the article on blushing. Not what I wrote you, of course, just that he would grow more secure as he got older.

That night I lay in bed and cried my eyes out, all the while making sure no one could hear me. The idea that I had to beg Peter for favours was simply revolting. But people will do almost anything to satisfy their longings: take me, for example, I've made up my mind to visit Peter more often and, somehow, get him to talk to me. You mustn't think I'm in love with Peter, because I'm not. If the van Daans had had a daughter instead of a son, I'd have tried to make friends with her.

You know that I always used to be jealous of Margot's relationship with Father. There's not a trace of my jealousy left now. I still feel hurt when Father's nerves cause him to be unreasonable towards me, but then I think "I can't blame you for

being the way you are. You talk so much about the minds of children and adolescents, but you don't know the first thing about them!" I long for more than Father's affection, more than his hugs and kisses. Isn't it awful of me to be so preoccupied with myself? Shouldn't I, who want to be good and kind, forgive them first? I forgive Mother too, but every time she makes a sarcastic remark or laughs at me, it's all I can do to control myself.

I know I'm far from being what I should: will I ever be?

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1944

Before I came here, whenever anyone at home or at school

talked about sex, they were either secretive or disgust. Any words having to do with sex were spoken in a low whisper, and those who weren't in the know were often laughed at.

That struck me as odd, and I often wondered why people were so mysterious or obnoxious when they talked about this subject. But because I couldn't change things, I said as little as possible or asked my girlfriends for information.

Peter van Daan wasn't ever as obnoxious about this subject as the boys at school. Or maybe just once or twice, in the beginning, though he wasn't trying to get me to talk. Mrs van Daan once told us she'd never discussed these matters with Peter, and as far as she knew, neither had her husband.

Apparently she didn't even know how much Peter knew or where he got his information.

Yesterday, when Margot, Peter and I were peeling potatoes, the conversation somehow turned to Boche. "We're still not sure whether Boche is a boy or a girl, are we?" I asked.

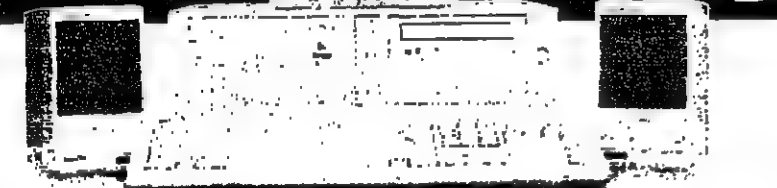
"Yes we are," he answered, "Boche is a tomcat."

"I was horsing around with the cat one day, and I could definitely see it was a 'he'." That afternoon I heard Peter go downstairs. I mustered the courage to walk through the silent house by myself and reached the warehouse. Boche was on the packing table, playing with Peter, who was getting ready to put him on the scales and weigh him.

"Hello, do you want to have a look?" Without any preliminaries, he picked up the cat, turned him over on his back, deftly held his head and paws and began the lesson. "This is the male sexual organ, these

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 13 1997

THE ANNE FRANK FONDS, BASLE, SWITZERLAND

ANNE FRANK STICHTING



Peter van Daan, left, and Anne Frank, right. "It gave me a wonderful feeling when I looked into his dark blue eyes. I could read his innermost thoughts and in his face I saw a look of helplessness and uncertainty as to how to behave."

are a few stray hairs, and that's his backside."

The car flipped over and stood up on his little white feet. If any other boy had pointed out the "male sexual organ" to me, I would never have given him a second glance. But Peter went on talking in a normal voice about what is otherwise a very awkward subject. Nor did he have any ulterior motives. By the time had finished, I felt so much at ease that I started acting normally too. We played with blocks, had a good time, chatted a bit and finally sauntered through the long warehouse to the door.

"Were you there when Mouschi was fixed?"

"Yes, of course. It doesn't take long. Naturally, they give the cat an anaesthetic."

"Do they take something out?"

"No, the vet just snips the tube. There's nothing to see on the outside."

I had to get up my nerve to ask a question, since it wasn't as "normal" as I thought.

"Peter, the German word Geschlechtsteil means 'sexual organ', doesn't it? But then the male and female ones have different names."

"I know that."

"The female one is a vagina, that I know, but I don't know what it's called in males."

"Humm."

"Oh well," I said. "How are we supposed to know these words? Most of the time you just come across them by accident."

"Why wait? I'll ask my parents. They know more than I do and they've had more experience." We were already on the stairs, so nothing more was said.

Yes, it really did happen. I'd never have talked to a girl about this in such a normal tone of voice. I'm also certain that this isn't what Mother meant when she warned me about boys.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1944

I told upstairs this morning, since I promised May van D.

"I began with *God's Diary*, which she liked a lot, and then I read a few passages from *The Secret Annex*, which had been in

attaches. Peter also listened for a while (just the last part) and asked if I'd come to his room 'sometimes' - he read

over. I decided I had to take a chance right then and there, so I got my exercise book and let him read that bit where

Cady and Hans talk about God.

I can't really tell what kind of impression it made on him. He said something I don't quite remember, not about whether it was good, but about the idea behind it. I told him I just wanted him to see that I didn't write only amusing things. He nodded, and I left the room. We'll see if I hear anything more!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1944

Whenever I go upstairs, it's always so I can see "him". Now that I have something to look forward to, my life here has improved greatly.

At least the object of my friendship is always here, and I don't have to be afraid of rivals (except for Margot). Don't think I'm in love, because I'm not, but I do have the feeling that something beautiful is going to develop between Peter and me, a kind of friendship and a feeling of trust. I go and see him whenever I get the chance, and it's not the way it used to be, when he didn't know what to make of me. On the contrary, he's still talking away as I'm heading out of the door. Mother doesn't like me going upstairs. She always says I'm bothering Peter and that I should leave him alone. Honestly, can't she credit me with some intuition? She al-

ways looks at me oddly when I go to Peter's room. When I come down again, she asks me where I've been. It's terrible, but I'm beginning to hate her!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1944

Thoughts: To Peter

We've been missing out on so much here, so very much, and for such a long time. I miss it just as much as you do. I'm not talking about external things, since we're well provided for in that sense. I mean the internal things. Like you, I long for freedom and fresh air, but I think we've been amply compensated for their loss.

This morning, when I was sitting in front of the window and taking a long, deep look outside at God and nature, I was happy, just plain happy. Peter, as long as people feel that kind of happiness within themselves, the joy of nature, health and much more besides, they'll always be able to recapture that happiness.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1944

Peter didn't join me in the attic, but went up to the loft to do some carpentry work. At every rasp and bang, another chunk of my courage broke off and I was even more unhappy. In the distance a clock was tolling "Be pure in heart, be pure in mind!"

It's like a nightmare, one that goes on long after I'm awake. I see him nearly every hour of the day and yet I can't be with him, I can't let the others notice, and I have to pretend to be cheerful, though my heart is aching.

I'm sentimental, I know. I'm despondent and foolish. I know that too. Oh, help me!

• Taken from *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*, edited by Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler, to be published by Viking on February 6, price £16.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Strange shapes emerge out of the everyday in Tony Cragg's Whitechapel show
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



DANCE

English National Ballet says farewell to the Festival Hall with *Coppélia*
FIRST NIGHT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



THEATRE

Caroline Blakiston recalls her Moscow nights in *Black Bread* and *Cucumber* at the Jermyn Street Theatre
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



OPERA

Rising British singer Andrew Shore sings the title role as Verdi's *Falstaff* comes to the Grand, Leeds
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

I am convinced that ITV's debate on the monarchy could be regarded as a landmark in television. In some ways it was a crude first draft, but groundbreaking programmes always are. It was a positive advance in our democratic conduct of politics. It showed once and for all that the British people long to have a direct voice on what governs them. It proved that they are hungry to have their opinions canvassed.

Television at last met a people increasingly disenchanted with politics — particularly young people — and drew them in to democratic debate by employing the reach and directness of the electronic medium. It points the way to a vigorous development in the political ecology which is becoming too slick, too cynical, altogether too packaged and confined for the strong debate clearly needed by a mature electorate. The British bulldog of feisty former times wants to burst from its leash, and on ITV it uttered a warning and a heaving growl.

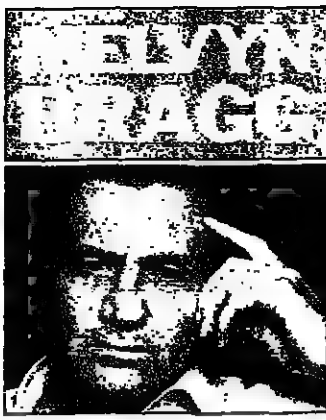
Let the people speak, hecklers and all

There has inevitably, as with all things new, been huge hostility towards the programme. This has largely concentrated on complaints by the panellists that they were not given enough time to develop their points, and also that the atmosphere in Birmingham before 3,000 British subjects resembled a bear garden.

I'm sure I would have sympathised had I been a panellist, but as a viewer I take a different view. First, as to the boos and hisses, the barracking and cheering — frankly, I thought this brought in a healthy smack of the old hustings. The microphone has made meetings open to the tyranny of the speaker. In Wigton, where I was born, at political meetings in the late 1940s and 1950s, the spirit of the hustings and heckling were part of the fun and part of the game. Today's political meetings

are anaemically reverential. Of course heckling can get out of hand, as it did when the militants wrecked Labour Party meetings in the early 1980s. But its utter elimination is almost as bad as its domination. On ITV's monarchy debate I thought that the balance was about right. And compared with some sessions of Parliamentary Question Time, it was unexceptional.

And although the panellists did not have as much time as they would have liked they were, after all, heard. Mary Ann Sieghart, for instance, wrote in this paper that she felt short-changed, but I was impressed by her. She made her points with clarity, coherence and urgency. F. Forsyth had more airtime than he would ever have been allowed on *Newsnight*. Terry Waite grumbled and then made an excellent point, as did others. Even



the more embattled contributors — Anthony Holden, Andrew Neil and Peter Hitchens, for example — got in good, hard points succinctly. The fact is that there are many different ways to mount a discus-

sion. It is absurd to rule out a programme whose aim was clearly to enlist the active participation of more than two million British people in less than two hours on a subject clearly important to them. The monarchy is debated at length in newspapers and magazines — and many of the ITV panellists have good access there. It is debated in other ways on radio and television — and again our panellists are often the dramatists personae on such programmes. This programme reached out and provoked the biggest response ever to any broadcast question.

The panellists surely knew that their time would be limited — and as I said, the best made good use of it. More importantly, I hope that they understood that on this programme they were not hired to speak to a deferential audience, but to take their place among

many other voices. It was perfectly right for the ITV programme that the man who had volunteered for the First World War by lying about his age should have had his say. It was right that the woman who stood up and hurled her anger at Claire Rayner should be heard; that the young Scot should show off his radical views. The whole plot and point was that these were the voices of the people, and among these voices the panel were not the elders or the senators, but were of the people. This can be looked at as something periodically to be welcomed.

Because the energy that came through the screen and carried on in the streets and offices on the following day was to do with the people having found a way at last of expressing views to the British public as politicians do so very often. It was right and proper for

the statistician over on *Newsnight* to pooh-pooh the results as not being scientific — even though they matched MORI and other polling quite uncannily. It was a pity that he did not appreciate the wholly different and refreshing exercise that he had just seen.

As the media give people more control over their own lives as consumers and leisure-seekers and students, so it can give people more opportunities to speak out as part of a democracy. Instead of being cooped up for years and let out to vote only every so often, this programme proved that the British public is now ready to take on television not only its confessions and its agonies and its amiable idiocies, but its passionate conviction about the state we are in. I would bet that the Greeks in the 5th century, when all the citizens collected together for their experiments in democracy, sounded very much like the British public on ITV the other night. More please, but with fewer panellists.

No ugly ducklings on this royal lake

Tchaikovsky's great ballet is never far from the Covent Garden repertoire, a useful touchstone for assessing the performing health of the Royal Ballet. This time around the diagnosis is encouragingly upbeat: strong at the top and bottom, a little weak in the middle.

One of the reasons for *Swan Lake*'s popularity is that it shines a spotlight on the corps de ballet, the stunning backbone of the two "white" acts. The entry of the Royal's swans in Act II is a moment of glorious precision dancing, drilled to perfection and then beautifully polished.

Swan Lake is also full of delightful variations, and the quality of these vary from competent to — in the case of Belinda Hatley in one pas de

trois, and Hubert Essakow in another — excellent. There is also much to admire in Ashley Page's Von Rothbart, a characterisation so malicious and so delicious. And in the space of just a few minutes, William Tuckwell paints a touching cameo as the inept Tutor.

Miyako Yoshida and Irek Mukhammedov had first-cast honours as the leading couple. Not only is Yoshida an accomplished technician, she is also a dancer of the utmost clarity, particularly adept at mime. Her emphatic storytelling skills illuminate Odette's plight: the weighty sorrow inflicted by Von Rothbart's curse; the leap of faith that allows her to trust Siegfried.

DANCE

Swan Lake Covent Garden

Yoshida's Odette is not visually animated — she saves that for Odile, a complete about-face in interpretation that sees her emerge triumphant as a beguiling seductress. And to put the icing on the cake, Yoshida delivered a flawless set of fourteenth turns made even more formidable by turning every fourth one into a double pirouette.

Prince Siegfried is a good role for Mukhammedov. He is right at home in the story, giving the improbabilities of the narrative an emotional realism. Mukhammedov's tender attention to his ballerina is admirable and his solos are neatly judged to flatter both himself and the choreography.

Deborah Bull and Jonathan

Cope, taking the second-cast leads, are an elegant pair. The breadth of Cope's dancing is always exciting and his partnering is exemplary. Bull favours the melting phrases of Ivanov's choreography for Odette over Petipa's incisive virtuosity for Odile. Her Odile is a little too clipped, too concentrated, although her Black Swan balances were exceptional.

Anthony Dowell's production is coming up to its tenth anniversary and those dreary designs by Yolanda Sonnabend are not improving with age. Wouldn't it be fitting if the Royal Ballet celebrated its return to Covent Garden after redevelopment with a new look for the most popular ballet in its repertoire?

DEBRA CRAINE



Anthony Dowell's decade-old *Swan Lake* is in good health at Covent Garden, although the designs have not improved with age

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POP: Strangelove in London; plus, the NME Bratbus Tour in Dublin

Theatrical angst on show

Fledgelings together

IT IS refreshing these days to see a record label engaging in some old-fashioned artist development. Strangelove's three years as stablemates of Blur at Food Records have brought the EMI label a harvest of just one week apiece on the bestsellers for their brace of albums. In today's cut-throat climate such statistics normally lead to a door marked Exit, but Food are bankrolling a third Strangelove album, currently in the works for release later this year.

The Bristol group's performance for a supportive University of London audience suggested that such virtuous perseverance will bring its reward. Strangelove's stage portrayal of some darkly rewarding songs from 1994's *Time for the Rest of Your Life* and last year's *Love and Other Demons* was engaging indeed.

Their focal point is lead singer Patrick Duff, a visual and emotional blend of Jarvis Cocker's theatricality and Brett Anderson's angst. The marauding, almost vengeful nature of such Strangelove songs as *Time for the Rest of Your Life* and *20th Century Cold* was toned down somewhat in a live performance that highlighted the band's acoustic inclinations.

Their emotional strength lies in a certain heroic despair, never shown more vividly than on the elegantly morose *Sway*, with Duff quietly keening "The world's out of reach of me". One felt his delivery that such hand-writing was truly first-hand.

PAUL SEXTON

The NME Bratbus Tour, in which four up and coming rock acts take to the road with little in common besides the vehicle in which they travel and a shared hunger to be the Next Big Thing, has established itself as the highlight of the January live circuit, even if inclusion on the tour can be as much a poisoned chalice as a golden opportunity.

The London-based punk traditionalists 3 Colours Red kicked off proceedings with a solid but unremarkable set at the Red Box in Dublin, the first gig of a two-week Irish and British tour. But given that the much-touted four-piece have appeared at the mammoth Donington and

Reading festivals, it must have come as a bit of a let-down for frontman Chris McCormack and Co to have to play to an audience in which the media and record company people outnumbered the paying punters, such was the paltry attendance. Pity.

The Red Box had mercifully filled up a bit by the time would-be teen-pop torch-carriers Symptom took to the stage. Hyperactive singer Ross Cummins's quirky stage persona owes far too much to a certain Damon Albarn. The band, too, sound like a punkier version of Blur — but without the songs.

Tiger, who meld classic art-rock with 1990s flaky pop

influences, can be sporadically great on record but live, because of a combination of poor sound and a disappointingly lacklustre delivery, they were just dull.

And so it was left to Aberdeen's Gesavee partially to rescue the evening from becoming one big anticlimax with their accomplished take on Smiths-onian melancholia. Andrew Montgomery's majestic choirboy voice soars and swoops in all the right places, especially on the single *No One Speaks*, but one wonders if the world will welcome a band that some have already written off as this year's Gene.

NICK KELLY

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MUSIC

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POP

Christy Moore brings his mixture of Celtic melancholy and lyrical beauty to the Point. Dublin GIG: Thursday REVIEW: Saturday



FILM

Singer on screen: Whitney Houston plays a central role in *The Preacher's Wife* OPENS: Friday REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

Michael Dobbs is back, but Francis Urquhart isn't the latest Westminster thriller is *Goodfellowe MP* IN THE SHOPS: Now REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

THEATRE: A new look for a small but important London venue; plus a moving real-life tale of Hollywood

CONCERTS

Back in business, slow start

The Bush men and Bush women are back in their attic after six months' absence, and the Bush theatre now has its own entrance and its own tiny foyer. That is just as well, for it saves you entering via a pub which has changed its name to the Eringer and Firkin.

All Of You Mine

Improvements. You drink your Gynvle Ale near signs pointing to the Firkin Loo or the Firkin Fodder, or sip your Shakes Beer beneath a slogan-reading "Shakespeare Took the Idea for Hamlet from Bacon", and all to ear-splitting music from inside the walls.



Doing the author proud: David Hounslow and Anne Carroll in Richard Cameron's new play for the reopened Bush, *All Of You Mine*

of *Pond Life* and *The Marjial Ash* and one of Dromogool's prime lodges.

Yorkshire pit village during the miners' strike? Why has one of the Cade daughters, Verna, been alienated from the family for 12 years since then? Slowly, too slowly, Cameron slips us his secrets. There was an "accident" down below. Five volunteers were killed. Maybe they were the victims of hardiness in the union. Maybe the bumpy-pumpy was even handier and punkier than it seems. Maybe the Cade clan was implicated.

shire folk to start replacing their grumbles of "no respect for nowt and nobody" with pastiche Lorca or cod Shakespeare. But if Cameron's dialogue had more spring in its boots, and the director, Simon Usher, had cut some of the more plodding bits, I would have been more excited by the revelations and stirred by the demerolism. But at least we get a look at a mining village metaphorically as well as literally trying to grow flowers on the slurry. At least David Hounslow, Melanie Kilburn and others

do their author proud. Two are particularly impressive: Lee Oakes as a spotty, scowling adolescent on the brink of his first job and Anne Carroll as the Cade matriarch, a feisty, plain-speaking old bat with softer feelings than she cares to show. Yet even they could not give the play enough energy for lift-off. Yes, the Bush is back in business but, no, it is not yet creatively airborne again.

A firm grip on the spiritual

WITH many delegates of the Association of British Orchestras already assembled in Manchester for their annual conference, Kent Nagano and the Hallé had the opportunity to restore something of the reputation lost to them when Bridgewater Hall opened four months ago. And they succeeded.

Hallé/Nagano Manchester

While there might have been some doubts about the wisdom of opening a concert of this kind with Haydn's early *Lamentations* Symphony in D minor, no one could seriously have questioned the quality of the preparation of Berg's Violin Concerto. Having performed the latter work with Nagano (and Viktoria Mullova) just two years ago, the orchestra had a good start. Even so, performance as scrupulously well balanced and as finely blended as this one is a rare event.

Down memory lane

Another pair of concerts in the Park Lane Group Young Artists series last Thursday were notable for the assured flute playing of Nicola Woodward, whether in solo or in duo with a pianist. I was informed was Nigel Clayton — the printed programme gave no help to identify which of two listed pianists was which. The flautist gave early token of her accomplishment in a lyrical and brilliant solo account of Edwin Roxburgh's *Star-Drift*, a 1992 competition test piece here played from memory.

PLG Young Artists Purcell Room

The earlier six o'clock slot was filled by a solo pianist, Ian Townsend, whose steely-fingered technique was softened by expressive warmth in the 1989 Sonata by David Matthews, a three-movement work of musical substance and lively imagination. Earlier in his programme, Townsend gave the first performance of *Small Change* by Martin Butler — a collection of short pieces not strongly enough delineated to make a convincing whole. Townsend was more successful with this year's featured composer, Anthony Payne, in his 1981 Elizabeth Lutyens tribute, *Miniature Variations on a Theme of E.L.*, which was played with incisive sensibility.

I dub thee forever the unsung queen

The story of Marni Nixon is as curious as it is strangely moving. Not only did she give Audrey Hepburn and Deborah Kerr their on-screen singing voices in *My Fair Lady* and *The King and I*, she pulled off an astonishing double when she dubbed both Natalie Wood and Rita Moreno for the film version of *West Side Story*.

According to Dan Rebellato's quirky one-woman play, the dubbing queen of the Sixties could barely muster a thank you, let alone a film credit from the stars whose voices she salvaged. She craved recognition, yet she was paid to be invisible. Her one brief

flicker of screen life as a singing nun in *The Sound of Music* was remarkable only for its negligibility. If Rebellato tells the story right, Nixon's tragedy is that she lived perpetually in the shadow of fame without being acknowledged by the stars she dubbed or the audiences. In view of all this obscurity, Rebellato's somewhat cautious decision to rename Nixon as Carolee James, one half expected to be confronted by a one-eyed leper with no legs. Not so. As wittily played by Jackie Clune, Carolee is pretty, flirtatious and an inveterate studio gossip. The play starts, disarmingly enough, with Carolee huffing a cue in a spartan recording studio.

While her editor rewinds the tape, she casually launches into the secret lives of the rich and famous, titillating us with the shortcomings of such stars as Ethel Merman and Natalie Wood. "Natalie can't sing a note without someone rushing to the bathroom with their ears bleeding," she almost sighs. It is caustic, throwaway stuff. Green Room slanders that seem harmless enough, until we gradually become aware of Carolee's fixation with Audrey Hepburn, a

star she is so intimately but distantly entwined with on film. You notice that she dresses like Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. That she quotes her most famous lines. That there is, in fact, a grand canyon between Carolee's inflated perception of herself and Hepburn's fame, mesmerisingly captured by Jackie Clune. What doesn't work is the play's reliance on the one-sided conversation. The more Rebellato uses invisible intercomers such as Carolee's pay agent to prod the story along, the more contrived and awkward the play becomes. Nevertheless Clune generates some wonderful comic desperation.

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Matthew Parris



■ The public this, the public that... But a columnist soon finds that people are anything but homogeneous

Newspaper columns are a long-distance relay, the runner the columnist, the page his track. It was there before he started and remains when he goes, but around his allotted laps he trots or powers his way, sometimes flagging, sometimes finding new energy.

By this columnist, on this page, the baton was taken up nearly nine years ago. Not for me, then, the 100-yard sprint or the special commentary from the celebrity outside-contributor. Instead a certain gentle stammer has been required: but for a journey which is not gruelling, but rather a kind of odyssey.

As any distance runner knows, in our event there is time to observe the observers. The sprinter is the spectacle: the crowd looks in — at him. But the marathoner looks out. He can scrutinise the faces as he passes — even exchange a little banter with his audience. For me the most surprising pleasure of writing this column has been to make the acquaintance of tens of thousands of readers, who have written to contribute thoughts, criticism, encouragement — and even, just occasionally, abuse.

The pleasure was unexpected. I receive between 20 and 100 letters a week. To my dear secretary Eileen Wright has fallen the task of typing and sending out my replies, and for me there has usually been time to do little more than read each letter and thank its sender. I thought that with the years, a columnist would grow cynical about this task. Instead, my interest in my readers, and my respect for them, has grown.

They are such good, nice people. The news media subject us to a daily bombardment of horrible stories about the misdoings of our countrymen: it can lead us to despair of fellow Britons. If you want an antidote, read the daily postbag from my readers of a Times columnist. You will find that far from being alone in a nation of thugs, yobs and cheats, you are surrounded out there in the dark by millions of intelligent, kindly, lively souls astonishingly various in their habits and opinions but united by a civilising tolerance and tremendous goodwill.

If it was ever the case that the Times reader was a predictable type — rich, stuffy, "Establishment" and almost certainly male — then my postbag tells me that it is emphatically not the case now. Every human type is there. Some are rich, most strike me as neither rich nor poor, and a notable group are of above average education and below average income: young people and old (especially elderly ladies), who in material terms have quite a struggle and for whom an intelligent newspaper represents a vantage point from which to survey the world of ideas, research and the arts. Perhaps my correspond-

ents are atypical, but I am struck by how unmaterialistic most who write to me are: life to them is about more than money. There are millions of such people. I do not recognise them in the picture of my countrymen the popular media portray.

If I were to name, from among these letters, one reaction running like a thread through many, it could be represented by a phrase so tempting that columnists must ban it from their repertoire. "Am I alone in thinking...?" I suspect that millions in modern Britain are bewildered and irritated by media assumptions about what "people" think or "people" do. They search for reassurance that their own doubts about received opinion and popular behaviour are not eccentric or absurd: that they are not mad.

That the average Briton has 2.4 children, when no Briton actually has 2.4 children points us to a profound error in the current fashion for constructing our supposed countrymen from the results of polls. It is perfectly possible to paint, from data about the opinion and practice of the many, a picture of a "typical" citizen with which no living creature actually accords. I think this is what the mass media do.

Especially that is true of television. A good broadsheet newspaper has time and space for many voices. They may be a cacophony, not a chorus. Broadcasting, by its very nature, tends to assume a single voice, a single "sound". The assumption grows that "we" as a nation think this, do that, approve of the other. "We" take on a distinctive aspect. My dismayed correspondents do not recognise themselves in this portrait. Have they been left behind like the little lame boy, as the Pied Piper and his band surge towards some magic mountain? If they could read all the letters that arrive with theirs, they would know that the little lame boys are in the majority.

It is important to the very idea of democracy that such a thing as public opinion exists. The ghastly possibility that among a population there may be diverse and contradictory opinions and no "democratic" way of satisfying them all is brushed uneasily aside. The unease explains fervent attempts to find ways — by "proportional representation" or "consultation" for instance — to pretend to ourselves that irreconcilable desires can be blended into unified decisions. They cannot. Give me the cacophony, I say. Give me the Times readers, a band who have in common only the quality that each one is original, and to whom, as I move to another page and a different day, I offer an affectionate thank you.

Matthew Parris's new column begins on Friday.

Public services cannot be restored without more money. Tax rises are impossible, so boost the private sector

Closing the health and education gaps

In 1964, I took part in the first modern election-night broadcast on ITN. Alastair Burnet was in the chair, and an early computer was cranking out forecasts of the overall outcome as the first constituency results came in. The computer started by forecasting a Conservative majority of just under 20. I remember saying flatly, and correctly, that the computer had got it wrong, and that Labour had won the election. I turned out to be right, at least on that occasion.

The reason I felt so confident was that the early 1960s had already seen a cultural revolution, of which *The Sunday Times*, on which I was then working, was an important agent. It was the period of the first colour magazine, edited by Mark Boxer, most of the rising journalists on *The Sunday Times*, including the "Insight" team and Harold Evans, were in their early 30s; they represented part of a cultural revolution of youth which turned out to be worldwide. I was myself 31 when I went to *The Sunday Times* in 1960. I was a balancing, rather than reinforcing, factor in the cult of youth on the paper, sometimes going with and sometimes standing against the fashionable tide, but I was there, and I knew that this cultural revolution was happening. That was why I was so certain that Harold Wilson had won the election. He was the candidate of the new and the young.

It seems that something of the same sort is happening again in British politics. Even at my later age, having seen so many political hopes for Britain frustrated, Tony Blair's campaign has some appeal. I think that the ultimate future of the country will be found through the Conservative Party, just as it was in the 1930s. But I recognise that my 30-year-old self would have been disillusioned by the present exhaustion of Conservative policy, and stimulated by the energy and seriousness with which Tony

Blair puts his case. Hope is a potent weapon in politics, with a strong appeal to the young. In 1964, Wilson offered hope, while Alec Douglas-Home only offered a sceptical experience. It is much the same now with Tony Blair and John Major.

Yet I cannot convince myself that Labour's central equation can be made to balance. On yesterday's *Breakfast With Frost*, Tony Blair rightly emphasised the need to spend more money on education; there is also a need to spend more money on health. The Labour Party is correct in asserting that these two central social services are inadequately funded, and that the Conservatives have failed to make the improvements that are needed.

In the case of the health service, a cold spell lasting for no more than two weeks has overwhelmed the reserve capacity of the hospital system. The Bristol Royal Infirmary has had to turn the gravely ill out of their beds to accommodate the even more seriously ill. In Bristol, you cannot get into a hospice unless your doctor will sign a chit guaranteeing you will be dead within two weeks. Several hundred people in London have found themselves waiting on stretchers in hospital corridors, some of them patients with terminal diseases.

This is a disgrace, and a disgrace with a clearly identifiable cause. For decades, the number of hospital beds per thousand in Britain has been falling, not only absolutely but relative to

other European countries. We now have the lowest hospital bed provision in Western Europe, a third less than France or Germany, no more than Spain. This fall has continued at speed under the Major administration with the closure of hospitals and the threatened closure of more. It is ultimately an economic issue. Britain spends a lower proportion of a smaller national income on health than France or Germany. By comparative European figures, health provision needs another 1 per cent of

William Rees-Mogg

gross domestic product to be restored to viability. That is £6.5 billion.

This is where the Labour equation comes unstuck. There is a worldwide public reluctance to pay higher taxes. Changes in employment patterns are making direct taxes progressively harder to collect. There are other competing claims on public funds. On the Continent, tax expenditure on health is no higher than it is here, but private expenditure, through insurance schemes or otherwise, is much higher. If Britain wants to bring health provision up to the European standard, it is the private

sector that needs to be expanded.

State education is also underfunded at every level: universities have been expanded far beyond the funds which were made available. As a result, teachers are underpaid and many of the best of them have left the profession. It is calculated that secondary teachers in Britain are paid little more than half what those in France receive. The greatest contrast is between the private and public sector. Universities have to adjust their admission standards to allow for the advantage of education in the private sector: the gap between private and public is much wider than it was 50 years ago. The Labour Party plans to widen the gap between private and public opportunities further by abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme, a scandalous anti-education decision.

New Labour has overthrown many of the statist obsessions of old Labour, but not this one. New Labour is just as determined to prefer the public to the private sector in the social services as old Labour was to prefer and enlarge the public sector in industry. In the social services, Clause Four remains with all its ugly force. No matter that Labour now recognises that taxes cannot be raised, and that tax-funded services will inevitably therefore be underfunded. Labour would still rather have cancer patients dying on trolleys in overcrowded NHS hospitals than properly care for under insurance schemes in private hospitals.

Labour would still rather have university entrants with three Cs at A-level from state comprehensives than with three As from private schools. For them, it is the principle of the thing. In this respect, Tony Blair is perhaps more blameworthy than his predecessors, who at least believed that there was scope for higher taxes. He knows there is not.

Shocking as this is, it does not do any credit to the Conservative Party. During this Parliament, these problems have become more and more pressing. Despite having to raise taxes, the Tories still aim to be the low-tax party. They have never imagined that it would be possible, or desirable, to raise taxes by an extra £6.5 billion for health, and perhaps another £6.5 billion for education. They have let these services drift closer and closer to insolvency. Yet they did nothing effective to expand private spending. In the 1980s the Tories privatised housing, another public social service that had gone into decline. They did not expand the private sector in health or education in the 1990s. This has not been a Conservative Government of ideas, but a Government as frightened of ideas as a timid old lady of mice.

The Conservatives have no answer to the underfunding of health and education if they are not prepared either to raise taxes or to expand the private sector. But nor does Labour. However, the electorate knows that these services, particularly health, are in steep decline. Large parts of the hospital service are so overstretched that they have become no better than a poor-law system. Tony Blair's policy of hostility to private funding, but no more taxes, is grotesque. But what is one to say of a Government too cowardly to expand private funding while it still had the power to do so? The danger now is that Labour will win the election on policies which will actually make things worse.

Labour without tears

Peter Riddell on Tony Blair's efforts to avoid the old traps in government

Sometimes even political posters contain a kernel of truth. The new Tory campaign, "It would all end in tears", may be crude but it sums up what the coming election is about. It is not that the public accepts John Major's "smiles not tears" choice. Few voters believe the Tories bring "smiles". Rather, as repeated polls have shown, many people still have doubts about how Labour would perform in office, and fear of "tears" may deter some on polling day.

Tony Blair agrees. His main aim as leader has been to show that Labour has changed and is fit to hold office. His real worry is of failure after one term, producing the recriminations and charges of betrayal that have followed the defeat of past Labour governments. He has drawn two main lessons: first, to have a limited programme which is endorsed by the party beforehand and can be achieved, and second, to tie the party into a Labour government. Anyone doubting his intentions should read last week's campaign document, *Leading Britain into the Future*. Nowhere in its 19 pages does the word socialism appear. Mr Blair rejects ideological politics, which he seems to regard as a 20th-century aberration, and presents Labour as a reformist centre party.

The Tory case is that for all his caution now, a government led by Mr Blair would quickly be derailed over constitutional reform, Europe and the economy. Mr Blair certainly inherited an ambitious constitutional programme, but since becoming leader he has tried to ensure that this does not squeeze out other measures. Mr Blair yesterday promised that an education Bill, not



a constitutional one, would be the first to be introduced. This is a largely empty gesture, since several Bills are likely to be pushed forward together, but it symbolises his priorities.

Moreover, the referendums in Scotland and Wales on the principle of devolution are intended to establish public support before the detailed Bills are introduced — in the hope of weakening opposition so the measures do not clog up Parliament, as happened in the late 1970s. However, Mr Blair knows that more needs to be said about the West Lothian question concerning the role and powers of Scottish MPs at Westminster. Labour's talks with the Liberal Democrats are largely about how these and other proposals — about, for example, Lords reform — can be enacted smoothly. Mr Blair is deter-

mined that they will not unbalance his whole programme.

On Europe, Mr Blair believes it will not be hard to reach agreement at the Amsterdam summit in June. Much more difficult will be taking a decision on the single currency and re-establishing Britain as a leading player within the European Union, not least because of the sceptical views of much of the British press. Mr Blair hopes that taking office will provide him with an opportunity to give a lead, and he looks to business for support.

The other key test will be the economy. Whether or not Britain joins a single currency or the Bank of England is given more independence, a new Labour government would

face much tighter fiscal and monetary constraints than its predecessors. The real question is not as the Tories allege, whether Labour has made new spending promises amounting to £30 billion (a gross exaggeration), but how it can contain the rising cost of existing programmes and so avoid a rise in taxes on ordinary people. The Tories have only been able to square this circle by cuts in other budgets and welfare entitlements, which Labour has opposed.

A Blair government would probably have to cut some popular programmes and confront the trade unions and local government. That is why changing the structure of the Labour Party is so important. Mr Blair has already gone over the heads of party activists, union leaders and MPs to win the overwhelming support of individual party members

over the new Clause Four and the pre-manifesto statement last autumn. He would be prepared to do so again in government. The party's National Executive Committee will shortly consider proposals aimed at avoiding the Hydra situation that arose so often in the 1970s, when the party itself (both the annual conference and the NEC) became a focus of public opposition to the Labour Government, to the frequent anger of James Callaghan. The suggestion now is that most ministers would not serve on the NEC, which would become more of an organisational committee for the party, without a major policymaking role.

More important than such institutional changes would be the attitude of Labour MPs — not so much the depleted and divided forces of the Left as the many in the centre. Many MPs, and candidates in winnable seats, are now going along with Blairism less out of conviction than because they do not want to rock the boat before a victory. How far are they fair-weather allies? Mr Blair places much faith, possibly too much, in the attitudes of the likely new intake and the new party members, half of whom have joined since he became leader. Other Blairites are more worried about internal party tensions, from the Shadow Cabinet downwards. Paradoxically, a key measure of the success of Mr Blair's attempt to create a "new" party and government may be whether some on the Left split off, possibly to be replaced by some of the sturdier Liberal Democrats and even some pro-European Tories.

As Mr Blair said last week, his aim is to establish a record on education, reform of the welfare state, decentralisation and relations with business and Europe that earns "the chance to carry forward our programme in a further term of office. Five years is too short a time to complete the process of reform." But the ability of a Blair government to win two terms and avoid "tears" will depend crucially on continuing to change the character of the Labour Party — in effect by creating a new party.

Overseas aid

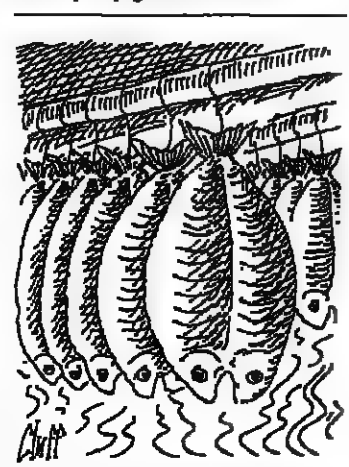
NEW YORKERS are cranking up their efforts on behalf of Tony Blair and the Labour Party. Following John Prescott's visit to town in September, when he addressed the 20th Congress of the Socialist International in Restaurant 44 at the Royal Hotel, key Labour supporters have sent out a letter announcing more meetings with Shadow ministers and asking for cash. Chief among New York's left-erati are Harold Evans, chairman of the publishers Random House and a former Editor of this newspaper, Brian McNally, a modish restaurateur, and Howard Stringer, a television executive.

"Since that breakfast in September," reads the letter, "the Government's majority in the House of Commons has vanished, and the election can be no more than three or four months away... We are planning a function on Wall Street with Shadow ministers as speakers." A Los Angeles event is also planned.

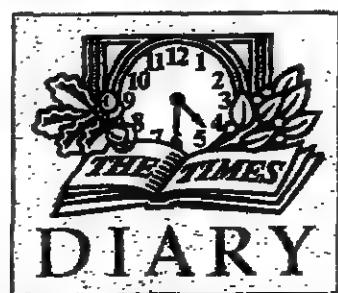
The letter ends with a plea for funds — from British citizens only of course, in the light of Tony Blair's abhorrence of foreign funding. "The Conservative Party is

very richly funded. In British elections, a few thousand pounds can make all the difference, so Labour's work in the US is focusing on aid from expatriates for the key seats... where a few hundred votes can critically affect the outcome."

■ Freda, a rare breed Gloucester Old Spot pig, is the newest addition to Highgrove, the Prince of Wales's Gloucestershire estate. She is the gift of a local farmer, Lewis Barnfield, who was chosen by the Gloucester Old Spot Society to find a companion for the Prince's Old Spot boar. Explaining his choice, Barnfield said "she has a few more spots than the others."



"As if things weren't bad enough, they tell us now that smoking ages you!"



tion to Highgrove, the Prince of Wales's Gloucestershire estate. She is the gift of a local farmer, Lewis Barnfield, who was chosen by the Gloucester Old Spot Society to find a companion for the Prince's Old Spot boar. Explaining his choice, Barnfield said "she has a few more spots than the others."

Quiet life

IN all the fuss surrounding the siting of Wafic Said's Oxford business school, one powerful individual has kept quiet. Dr Colin Lucas, the Master of Balliol, lives at the King's Mount, a large house bang next to the Mansfield Road sports ground where Said wanted his school to be built.

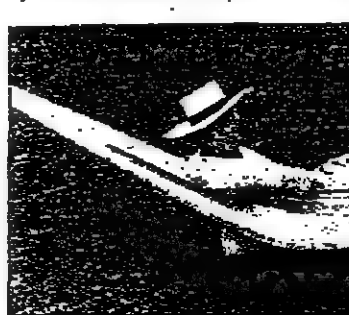
Lucas, who is due to take over as the university's Vice-Chancellor in

October, will be delighted that the original plan has been squashed on two counts. Not only will the relocation of the school quell what promised to be some vicious, port-fuelled common-room fights, but it will also guarantee the peace around his digs.

"Colin has said he doesn't mind the school being built there — he's a diplomatic sort of chap," said an Oxford colleague of Lucas yesterday, "but I'm sure he'll be secretly relieved it's going somewhere else."

Wakey wakey

WITH the Referendum Party launching its unremitting new advertising campaign over the weekend, one question is being asked by its supporters: Where's Jiminy?



Goldsmith: the oldest swinger takes life easy as others panic

While John Major and Tony Blair filled the holiday media with their outpourings, Sir James Goldsmith has been whooping it up at Cubmala, his elephantine Mexican resort.

He is now packing up the sun-screen, just as the last fairylight is unplugged from his lavish new year's party, for which he flew over a Boeing-full of guests, and preparing to return to Putney, where he is standing for Parliament. Among the party leaders, only Paddy Ashdown, who has been showing form on the parliamentary skiing trip in Davos, can compare.

Sir James's able-bodied assistant, Patrick Robertson, was rather evasive about the leader's absence: "Where is Sir James?" I asked. "He's raring to go," says Robertson.

"So he won't be at the launch of your new campaign?"

"He's raring to go."

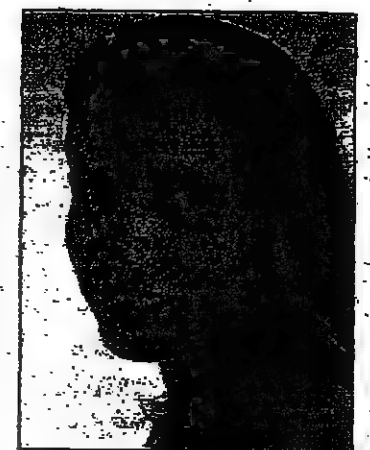
Snooze news

IT IS reassuring that the Tories are scheduling human amounts of sleep for the Prime Minister during the general election campaign. Sadly, it is unlikely we will ever get to see the PM's flop-room, after some snobbish reactions in the press to Norma Major's confession that the couple have a Teasmade beside their bed.

Nevertheless, some facts on Major's sleeping habits: when the strains of London become too much, he likes to retreat under the covers in Huntingdon; Mrs Major has publicly vowed to sleep in all the four-poster beds at Chequers before she is forced to leave according to a friend who once stumbled into the PM's bedroom in Downing Street by accident. John Major is the first Prime Minister in history to take advantage of a duvet.

Fluent

ALL the usual stiel matigolia stuff written about ballerinas should be multiplied by ten in the case of Darcy Bussell, heroine of the Roy-



Darcy Bussell: heroine

al Ballet. On Saturday, Miss Bussell, who, I regret to say, is soon to marry, danced her way through Act One of *Swan Lake*, including the notoriously gruelling "Rose Adagio", with scarcely a smuffle. This despite being one of the many currently feeling the flu.

At the interval it was announced that having done the tricky bit, she had taken to her bed and would not be returning to the stage. Flowers may be sent to Covent Garden.

P.H.S

هكذا من الأصل



NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER

Flexibility, not insecurity, should govern the labour market

The middle classes do not have jobs; they have careers. The expectation of a smooth upward progression at work is surely one of the defining stamps of middle-class life. Yet, as our series starting today shows, the conventional linear career is becoming as dated as a bowler hat. And what many middle-aged managers and professionals found out the hard way during the last recession, their children and grandchildren are accepting as a fact of life.

Not only can the young expect to change jobs every few years; a combination of global competition and fast-moving technology may well compel them to make three or four career changes too, as well as cope with the odd spell out of the labour market. Their lives will be far less secure than those of their parents, cushioned as they used to be by committed employers and a cradle-to-grave welfare state. But they will have more fun. And above all they will have the chance to design their own careers.

Resourcefulness, resilience, adaptability and salesmanship will be the ingredients for success in the new world of work. People will have to package themselves for the job market, to run their careers almost like businesses. They will have to redefine success and failure so that a spell of unemployment is seen as an opportunity to regroup rather than a catastrophe. And they will have to concentrate on building skills that make them employable, rather than simply finding jobs.

For some, this shift could be as psychologically destabilising as the Industrial Revolution. Then people had to get used to the idea of working full-time for others, instead of sporadically and mainly for themselves. There were riots, arson and murders as those who felt enslaved by the new world of the wage tried to fight back.

Today's model may be as liberating as the old was enslaving; but for many freedom itself is something to fear. To adapt to the

modern career requires a reassessment: people will have to define themselves not by what they do, but by what they do well. Skills will determine success in life, and they may be adapted to different jobs at different times. A willingness to go back to school, literally and figuratively, will be necessary. Lifetime learning will be the backbone of the new career.

Modern working life, though, will be more fun. The days of a young graduate spending many boring years in the expectation that promotion would eventually make the sacrifice worthwhile are over. Companies are now offering their best graduates responsibility much earlier. That is because the implicit contract between employer and employee is changing. Corporate loyalty for young people is being replaced by the job as a deal: I will offer you my services in return for you making me more employable elsewhere. This is a rational response. They know they must manage their own careers, since they cannot rely on their employer doing it for them.

Some people will be prepared to sacrifice status for security. At Rover, for instance, job security for all is now guaranteed, but in return employees have to be prepared to do absolutely any job, wielding a spanner if necessary. And only last week, Blue Circle signed a job security deal with the GMB general union.

But more employees are likely to opt for the insecure but entrepreneurial model. This could be profoundly democratising. Working-class people have long had to be philosophical about the vicissitudes of life, employed as many of them have been in declining or cyclical industries. That the middle classes too are learning to pick themselves up and dust themselves down several times in a working life may do more to create common understanding than anything a politician spouting about a classless society will ever manage to achieve.

ATHENS AND ANKARA

The Eastern Question has returned, dangerous and complex

Turkey's threats to carry out a pre-emptive military strike on any air defence system installed on Cyprus shows how dangerously the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean has deteriorated. Once a dependable NATO ally, Turkey appears now to be drifting out of control. Tempers are rising in Cyprus, together with irresponsible brinkmanship. Athens and Ankara, relations at an all-time low, are accusing each other of preparing for war. And the Pentagon admits that its relationship with Turkey is breaking down.

Blame for the latest crisis lies unambiguously with the Cyprus Government. Its decision to buy an air defence system from Russia can only complicate attempts to broker a solution between the island's Greek and Turkish communities. Indeed, raising the temperature appears to have been the main reason for the deal, with the Cyprus Government hoping to provoke Turkey into the kind of bellicose response that will rally the rest of Europe behind Nicosia.

Such calculations are particularly irresponsible at present. For the Turkish Government of Necmet Erbakan, its Islamist Prime Minister, is in no mood to pay heed to any pressure from its Western partners. Mr Erbakan veers from one extreme to another, torn between the demands of his radical Islamic ideology and the constraints of pragmatism. Tansu Ciller, the Foreign Minister, is clinging to almost any lifeline that will prevent a wave of corruption charges breaking over her. A series of scandals has linked her True Path Party with underworld gangs. And the Turkish Army, always a formidable force, is waiting, frustrated in the wings, unable to win the

war against Kurdish terrorism or to break the political deadlock.

Equally important, however, is the breakdown in relations with Europe and America. Since the election of Mr Erbakan, Washington has had little dialogue with a man who appears, by his visits to Iran and Libya, intent on rubbing the Americans. And the traditional lines of communication with the army have been blocked by disagreement on two vital issues: Iraq and arms supplies. The army is resentful of the American presence in Iraq, dislikes the air patrols operating from the Incirlik base, and believes the protection of Iraqi Kurds has given safe haven to PKK terrorists trying to overthrow the Turkish state.

Turkish relations with Europe are little better. The European Union, having agreed to a customs union with Turkey, refuses still, under pressure from Greece, to release to Ankara Mediterranean funds amounting to some \$100 million at a time when Turkey is now suffering a \$10 billion trade deficit with the EU because of the customs union. The European Parliament has also raised the Kurdish issue and human rights to prevent any closer political dialogue.

Turkey occupies a vital geostrategic position. Its outreach into the Middle East, Russia and Central Asia is considerable; its regional military and economic strength is impressive. Yet it is falling into a political morass and spiritual malaise of its own making. Neither its European nor American partners have formulated a coherent strategy to rekindle their links with Ankara. The Eastern Question has returned in all its historical complexity and danger.

GOING UNDERGROUND

Privatising the Tube would show a sense of Tory direction

Clear blue water can be found underground in London — not in the River Fleet, but on the Tube. Conservative plans to privatise the London Underground are welcome evidence of a dash of radicalism from a party that seemed content to enter the election on a safety-first platform. Privatising the Tube may not have the instant attractions, for voters or the Treasury, of previous sell-offs. Persistent underinvestment in the Underground means that a significant capital outlay will be required under any new owner. Both taxpayers and travellers may bear part of that burden, but the most effective guarantee that new money will be effectively used relies on the application of rigorous market discipline.

Rail privatisation, damned before the first detail had been worked out as "the poll tax on wheels", has proved a modest but real success. A more flexible fare structure and greater room for management innovation have improved the service for many passengers. The most obvious improvements have been registered on flagship routes such as the East Coast main line where sharper selling has stung airline rivals into a price war, with the traveller the gainer.

Opponents of Tube privatisation have attempted to create barriers by rehearsing variations on the same themes that have haunted all sell-offs. Critics exaggerate the resistance of consumers to change, the threat to peripheral services and the difficulty of ensuring effective competition. But the privatisation of the Underground should be,

in principle, no more problematic than that of any utility.

It would be foolish to play down the difficulties. London Underground, like the nation's sewerage system, is a triumph of Imperial-era engineering undermined by generations of underinvestment. The Tube suffers from creaking architecture, ageing rolling-stock, rigidly unionised staff and a management handcuffed to public sector practices. Any privatisation would probably have to be under-written by an initial subsidy to keep fares down. Privatisation would, however, release capital buried in unnecessary property holdings and allow a more imaginative deployment of resources.

Managers would also be free to make employment savings. Union intransigence has prevented the most efficient use of staff and the Underground could operate more effectively with far fewer workers than its current complement of 15,000. Norman Lamont, John Redwood and Michael Heseltine have all investigated means of ensuring an effective transfer of the Tube into private hands and Mr Redwood's proposal to give every Londoner the chance to take a stake in the network is a daring development in the successful tradition of franchising those most directly affected by privatisation. If the Government is to deserve re-election it must show it has not run out of steam — privatising the Underground would be evidence of a commitment to its traditional enterprise ideals and proof of continuing vitality.

Change to rules on teachers' pensions

From Dr Leslie Bather

Sir, When militant teachers disrupted the education of their own pupils their favourite weapon was the "withdrawal of goodwill". Now the National Association of Head Teachers proposes to do the same to 20,000 student teachers who might be boycotted by its members in order to bully the Government into abandoning its plan to tighten up on superannuation arrangements which allow teachers to retire without providing full medical evidence of ill-health (report, January 5).

Head teachers should have strong support from the Government over the removal of faded, lazy or stressed-out teachers, but this particular proposal is objectionable for several reasons.

Heads would be teaching their pupils that bullying and blackmail are acceptable ways to get what you want. They would be setting a dreadful example to entrants to the profession just at the crucial moment when student teachers are establishing their expectations of professional conduct.

If head teachers let down the student teachers who need their help, they can hardly complain when militant teachers once again want to use their own pupils as pawns in a dispute over pay.

Such behaviour, by head teachers of all people, might well undermine the ideals of some excellent school students who are seriously considering entering the profession.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE BATHER
(Headmaster, Bishopshalt School, Hillingdon, 1970-96),
28 Whitehouse Way,
Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire,
January 9.

From the Secretary of the HMC

Sir, Your report gives some indication of the strength of feeling in the teaching profession at the proposed changes to our pension scheme. It is well understood that more cannot be paid out in pensions than is received in contributions (though until recently contributions exceeded payments). It is the implementation of the proposed sudden change in regulations in the middle of the school year which would be unacceptable.

Perfectly legitimate applications for early retirement from heads and teachers, who have given as much as 35 years dedicated service to the profession but are now worn out, will have to be turned down because employers (particularly in the independent sector) cannot put around the necks of future generations the millstone of continued additional pension contributions as long as the recipients or spouses are alive.

The Government should date any changes in the regulations from the end of the school year (August 31), allowing those whose applications have been accepted to go under existing arrangements. In the longer term, discussions should take place to find affordable ways in which teachers can be allowed to retire early without financial penalty.

Yours faithfully,
V. S. ANTHONY, Secretary,
The Headmasters' and
Headmistresses' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester,
January 9.

From Mr M. G. Sansbury

Sir, The retirement of four out of five teachers before 60 suggests a serious loss of skill and experience, a great deal of dissatisfaction and frustration, and levels of stress met in few other professions.

There are obvious reasons for this untimely exodus. One is the extra work now required outside the classroom, so that teachers spend many more hours working than before, not always with clear benefit to their pupils. Another is that teachers' best efforts are often frustrated by disruptive pupils.

Rather than trying to transfer part of the huge cost of early pensions to local authorities, the Department for Education and Employment should address these and other causes of teachers' exasperation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SANSBURY,
16 Park Avenue,
Solihull, West Midlands,
January 8.

Enclosure Acts

From Mr M. Eden Irving

Sir, Let us hope that the Hull County Court judgment on the enforcement of a 1765 Enclosure Act in the matter of the Flamborough hedge (report, January 5) may affect the enforcement of other Enclosure Acts.

We have the Hallwhistle Enclosure Act of 1844 which requires the trustees (now our town council) to have the town green (or "allotment") enclosed as a place for exercise and recreation "in the first instance... fenced and drained at the general expense, and the fences and drains of such allotment shall for ever afterwards [my italics] be repaired and maintained by the... overseers [now town council]".

Ever afterwards? It doesn't look like it from the present state of our green.

Yours faithfully,
M. EDEN IRVING,
The Coign, Comb Hill,
Hallwhistle, Northumberland,
January 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

The finders and keepers of treasure

From Mr Simon Denison

Sir, In Gary Slapper's article on the new Treasure Act (Law, "Whose treasure now?", January 7), he reports the National Council of Metal Detecting's view that many of its members "will give up the hobby because there will no longer be any incentive". This is presumably because under the Act more artefacts are considered "treasure", and therefore the property of the Crown.

As joint author of the report *Metal Detecting and Archaeology in England* (English Heritage/CBA, 1995), from which some of Dr Slapper's statistics are taken and which formed one of the main influences behind the new Act, I am convinced that there are no real losers. The Act covers only a limited range of artefacts, providing plenty for detectorists to find and keep legitimately; it also provides that full financial compensation should be made to any finders of "treasure", exactly as before.

The long-running attempt to change the formerly absurd law of treasure trove has been dogged throughout by an impression that it represents a battle between "good" archaeologists and "bad" metal detectorists — an impression stoked up by irascible members of both sides.

The truth is rather that most archaeologists welcome the extremely productive efforts of detectorists to find buried artefacts — provided they share their knowledge — and most detectorists are delighted to be asked to help in the wider quest for knowledge about Britain's past.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON DENISON
(Editor, *British Archaeology*,
Council for British Archaeology,
Bowes Morrell House,
111 Walmgate, York,
January 8.

From Mr Andrew Selkirk

Sir, Following the recent Treasure Act, the Department of National Heritage has just produced a draft code of practice which appears to allocate all "finds of national importance" (ie, the best) to the national museum and only treasure of local importance (ie, the second-rate) to local museums. Apparently (this is not clear) the British Museum is left to decide which is which.

The Children Act

From Mr Richard Jones

Sir, In spite of the huge training programme that accompanied the implementation of the Children Act 1989, the statement by Felicity Collier of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering that this Act "requires social workers to work in partnership with parents" (letter, January 7) seems to be widely believed.

Although the Government has rightly recognised that, as a matter of good practice, the "development of a working partnership with parents is usually the most effective route to providing supplementary or substitute care for their children" (Department of Health guidance on the Act, 1990, my emphasis), the word "partnership" does not appear in the Act itself.

In my experience, the fact that some social workers hold the belief that working in partnership with parents is an absolute legislative requirement that must be applied in all cases has blighted the futures of a number of those children that the 1989 Act was meant to protect.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD JONES
(Solicitor),
18 Meadowswood,
Penarth, South Glamorgan,
January 7.

Water buffalo

From Mr Martin Nicol

Sir, I was intrigued to read of Bob Palmer's success in farming water buffalo (report, January 2; letter, January 7). In the jungles of South-East Asia, "sladang", as they are known in Malay, are notorious for charging through the jungle on the slightest pretext, and the local population uses the name to refer to humans with a similar disposition.

During my army jungle training anyone covered in cuts and bruises at the end of the day's hard slog was referred to as a sladang. Mr Palmer's herd looks remarkably civilised, so perhaps would be no use for training Territorials in jungle warfare.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN NICOL,
20 Graham Terrace, SW1,
January 8.

Drug companies' duty

From Mrs W. Ratley

Sir, John Ramsey, head of the Toxicology Unit at St George's Hospital Medical School, says that it was irresponsible of Nestlé Rowntree to produce a sweet that could "easily be mistaken for a drug" (report, January 6).

There are many of us who feel the reverse is more irresponsible and that companies should stop making drugs that can easily be mistaken for sweets.

Yours faithfully,
W. RATELEY,
30 Acadia Avenue,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
January 6.

This seems to me to be quite unreasonable, and I would have thought that the best finds should be distributed equally between national and local museums. In Scotland the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel does this, although not without controversy. Perhaps there should be a similar panel in England; or could they not just toss for it?

The same problem of the distribution of finds also occurs internationally, witness the Elgin Marbles (letters, December 28; January 6 and 11). Do we really want all treasures to be in the country of origin, all Greek things in Greece, all Egyptian things in Egypt? Or do we want to encourage the existence of world museums such as the British Museum, where it is possible to see and appreciate other cultures? I believe that the understanding of different cultures also brings tolerance.

Surely the problem now is to persuade museum authorities to distribute round the world some of the surplus treasures that are languishing unseen in every country.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SELKIRK
(Editor, *Current Archaeology*,
9 Nassington Road, NW3,
January 7.

From Eur Ing William Neil

Sir, Perhaps a new explanation will enter the archaeological language as a result of the changes in law relating to buried treasure. Metal detectorists may be tempted to claim: "I dug it up in my own back garden, guv", thus circumventing some of the restrictions of the new law.

As layer upon layer of Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval metals come to light in certain suburban gardens, archaeological opinion may well be skewed by these mystical concentrations of "sacred sites" and "ritual deposits" in someone's cabbage patch. At the same time such finds on, for instance, someone's land or council property will diminish proportionally.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM NEIL,
1 Conisboro Avenue,
Caversham, Berkshire,
January 7.

From Mrs Dawn Cunningham

Sir, It is disingenuous of the Government to scapegoat social workers for societal changes beyond their control. Since the advent of the Children Act it has not been a simple matter, nor should it be, to remove children from their birth parents. The Act enjoins us to support parents to keep their children as far as possible and, when a care order is inevitable, to continue to facilitate contact with birth relatives where it is in the best interest of the child. This militates against old-fashioned, clean-break adoptions in favour of "open" adoption and long-term fostering.

The children coming into care now are frequently of an older age-group and more damaged through sexual or physical abuse, or are born with profound disabilities and require very demanding parenting. They do not represent a "solution" for infertile couples who want a normal family life.

Adoption is not always the answer. The correct response to the current situation is to support underfunded local authorities to recruit a wide variety of carers from all walks of life and ethnic groups who wish not necessarily to adopt, but to care for special needs children on a permanent basis, possibly through financially supported residence orders.

Yours sincerely,
DAWN CUNNINGHAM
(Social services team manager),
5 Trinity Parade, Frome, Somerset.

Fishing quotas

From the Earl of Radnor

Sir, The enthusiasm of Mr Tony Baldry, Fisheries Minister, and the British fishing industry's pleasure at the outcome of the talks on quotas for the next year may be misplaced (letters, December 30; January 4).

A strong suspicion must remain that the quotas are still too large, but the underlying worry is that the quota system is flawed. Fish taken that are over the quota (some 40 per cent of the total catch) are returned to the sea. Unfortunately nearly all if not all of them will die. This appalling waste must be wrong.

In my view, the way forward must be to decommission vessels until fishing effort matches the fish available to be caught. Such a programme, as has been suggested recently by Emma Bonino, the European Fisheries Commissioner, is drastic but better than running out of fish altogether. Examples of the latter situation can be seen in areas such as the Georges Banks (off the north-east coast of the US), the Newfoundland Banks and the Alaskan Pollock Fishery. The collapse of the Newfoundland fishing stocks alone has led to the loss of some 40,000 jobs throughout the Canadian fishing industry.

Yours faithfully,
RADNOR,
Longford Castle,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
January 5.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Charting history of remote islands

From Dr Frank Preston

Sir, Matthew Parris's charts of the remote Kerguelen Islands, more than 2,000 miles south of the Cape of Good Hope, may be more interesting historically than he realises (article, January 6).

Captain James Cook, on his third voyage of discovery and in command of the frigates *Resolution* and *Discovery* (not *Challenger* as stated by Parris), arrived off the Kerguelen group in swirling fog. He sent his sailing master and cartographer, William Bligh (later Captain Bligh of the *Bounty*), ahead in the cutter to sound out an entrance to an inlet where they anchored. It was Christmas Day 1776 and he named this inhospitable bay Christmas Harbour. There was plenty of water from the heavens but nothing to eat apart from the penguins, which when well cooked were reported as acceptable to the sailors.

Detailed surveys and charting of the northern side of the islands were done before sailing for New Zealand on the last day of 1776.

Nearly a century passed before HMS *Challenger* (the fifth ship of that name) under the command of Captain George Nares arrived, again in fog, with Professor Charles Wyville Thomson on January 7, 1874, on a voyage of discovery partly organised by the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Society and subsidised by Mr Gladstone's Government.

They carried out considerable surveys but the weather was frequently adverse with gales, snow and fog. The birdlife was prodigious and they lived on seal which they shot in large numbers. They attributed the succulence of these to the abundance of Kerguelen cabbage, the fruit of which was the seals' favourite food.

There are references to the Kerguelen Islands in the *Cook Journal* Vol 11, p32; in the recent excellent biography of Cook by Richard Hough (Hodder & Stoughton, 1995) and in Eric Linklater's *The Voyage of the Challenger* (John Murray, 1972).

I hope Matthew Parris makes it to the Kerguelens.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK PRESTON
(Medical officer, the eighth HMS *Challenger*, 1947-50),
2 Ravensmead,
Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire,
January 7.

Family viewing

From Professor Malcolm Baird

Sir, I enjoyed Alan Coren's short history of Christmas (December 24) and the reference to my father inventing television as a "better way" than family mayhem to pass the Christmas season. In fact he was still a bachelor when he came up with television in 1926. Later he did have a family, but he continued to spend much of his time in the laboratory — safely away from the mayhem and quietly refining television with colour, 3-D pictures, etc.

Actually our family Christmas mayhem was not too bad, and the experimental colour television of the 1940s was simply a closed-circuit picture of a tailor's dummy (Eustace) wearing a cloak and hat — not as ghastly as some present-day programmes.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM BAIRD,
McMaster University,
Department of Chemical Engineering,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Sins of accretion

From Mr Michael Bird

Sir, Bernard Levin (article, January 3) wonders why so many people are sucked into flagrant scams. Simple: the seven deadly sins are especially lethal if combined. We know from each week's crimes what lust plus rage will do. The cocktail swallowed by the victims of pyramid schemes is avarice plus sloth: they want to be rich, but don't want to work for it or even make the small effort to ask how a fortune can be so easily earned.

There are 21 pairs of the seven deadly sins, some essential to commerce: without envy plus pride, for example, the fashion trade would wither. I began to calculate the money-making opportunities of sins bundled in threes or fours, but innuery (today's eighth deadly sin) and sloth combined to prevent me.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL BIRD,
5 Glenham Gardens, SW13,
January 5.

Comprehensive cover?

From Mr Arnold I. Catterall

Sir, Your report on vehicle insurance in *Car 97* (January 4) describes one company's perfect risk as a Fiat owner living in Suffolk and driving mainly on motorways.

This, however, raises the question: how many Fiats are involved in accidents whilst their drivers seek Suffolk's non-existent motorways?

Yours sincerely,
A. CATERALL,
37 Underwood Avenue,
Ash, nr Aldershot, Hampshire,
January 5.

OBITUARIES

ELSPETH HUXLEY

Elspeth Huxley, CBE, died on January 10 aged 89. She was born in London on July 24, 1907.

Although she produced more than thirty books in a writing career which began in the mid-1930s, Elspeth Huxley will be best remembered for the popular imagination for her autobiography *The Flame Trees of Thika*, first published in 1959, this evocative account of her upbringing in East Africa both before and after the First World War was an immense success when it was made into a series for Thames Television in the early 1960s.

The series was also controversial in Africa itself, since it was seen by many as justifying British colonial rule. When it was shown in Kenya, a number of MPs there criticised it as being racist, and the *Nairobi Daily Nation* described Elspeth Huxley as "one of the world's best-known apologists for colonial rule".

Kenyan state television took one look at it and withdrew the programme. The charges puzzled Huxley, whose mental outlook was profoundly coloured by the spiritual life of the Africans among whom she had grown up. She had always regarded the African approach to immortality as having a validity equal to that of what she called the "Western gentleman in the sky".

But she was no stranger to controversy in general. Most recently she was in the headlines again when she reminded the world that she had, 30 years ago, predicted the dangers inherent in modern methods of factory food production, with its importation of hormones and other outside agents into the food chain. She had been a cattle farmer herself in the 1950s, and her book *Brave New Victims* (1965) was a savage critique of the whole principle of intensive food production of the type which has led to the BSE scare in our times.

Elspeth Huxley was the only child of Major Josephine Grant ("a gentle, humorous, dreamy person whose dreams never came true", as she remembered him) and of his redoubtable wife Nellie, a daughter of Lord Stalbridge. Her mother was later to become renowned in Africa for compiling a Swahili dictionary which was produced by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. "It contained not very useful phrases like 'The idle slaves are scratching themselves'."



Elspeth Huxley later recalled: "At the end of 1912 her parents went out to Kenya where Elspeth spent the next three years before returning to England with her mother at the end of 1915. (Her father had left Kenya a year before to rejoin the Royal Scots.) She returned to East Africa in 1919, having contrived to make herself an intolerable nuisance at her English school with that very end in mind. She continued her education in Nairobi until it was time to return to England, in 1925, to read for an agricultural diploma at Reading University. After taking her diploma she went to Cornell for a year.

In 1928 she went to work for the Empire Marketing Board, and became assistant press officer. There she met Gervase Huxley, a cousin of the novelist Aldous, who was in charge of publicity, and in 1931 they married. A year later Gervase was appointed to the Ceylon Tea Board, and several years of extensive travel followed for both of them.

Elspeth was now invited by the widow of the 3rd Lord Delamere to write his life, and for this she needed to revisit East Africa, which she had not

seen for eight years. The resulting book, *White Man's Country: Lord Delamere and the Making of Kenya*, came out in 1935, a substantial and authoritative work which established her reputation. "If you go on like this," her husband's cousin Julian told her, "you will make quite a good Huxley." She had acquired the *coccythos scribendi*, and a novel *Red Strangers* and several detective stories followed, all with an East African background.

Indeed, her African experience, three years as a child and six more in adolescence, would remain the source of her best books. These included two volumes of fictionalised autobiography, *The Flame Trees of Thika* (1959) and *The Mottled Lizard* (1962), *The Challenge of Africa* (1971) and *Livingstone and his African Journeys* (1974), followed, and in 1979 she published a volume of excerpts from her mother's letters, entitled *Nellie: Letters from Africa*, to which she prefixed a lengthy memoir. Many consider this book as good as anything she ever wrote.

She also published, in collaboration with Margery

Perham, *Race and Politics in Kenya* (1944) and she served as an independent member on the Manickton Advisory Committee on Central Africa in 1960. She was on the General Advisory Council of the BBC (1952-59), was a JP for Wiltshire, where she and Gervase had made their home from 1939, and took an active part in local affairs and causes. She was appointed CBE in 1962. She remained tireless into old age, her last book being *Peter Scott, Painter and Naturalist* (1993). She had earlier written *Scott of the Antarctic* (1977).

Her books are, at their best, distinguished by a clarity of exposition and incisiveness, personal qualities which made her a "good Huxley". They are also sometimes marred by inaccuracy and carelessness thanks, in the main, to hasty composition. Her grandfather, she wrote, was born in the same year as Queen Victoria — she should have said, in the year when Queen Victoria came to the throne. Her book about the Wiltshire village where she lived, *Gallipoli Eyes*, 1976, caused much offence (as such books almost always will) but not as much through lack of tact as through

lack of accuracy. As one of her neighbours remarked: "If Elspeth is right I don't think my elder children can be legitimate." She even perpetrated an un-Huxleyan howler by stating that red and grey squirrels are of a different genus.

Her published works recount her experience of Africa and England and of Australia, but they also reveal a personality too vigorous and outspoken always to have time for the social refinements of gentleness and tact. Nevertheless, she was an excellent hostess and a welcome guest, whose independent mind ensured that conversation would not slide off into trivialities but would be more likely to provoke controversy — which she always enjoyed. And she respected the independence of others, of her mother, who lived to be 92, and of her son's three young sons whose childish interests she sought to encourage from her own wide experience or by enlisting her friends' help when that was needed. She was not only a talented writer but an outstanding personality.

Gervase Huxley died in 1971 and she is survived by her son.

JILL SUMMERS

Jill Summers, *Coronation Street* actress, died from kidney failure in Salford on January 11 aged 86. She was born in 1910.

JILL SUMMERS had a long career in light entertainment and comedy that covered both variety and television. In the 1940s and 1950s she frequently topped the bill as a singer on the then powerful Maccs Empire circuit. She was also a respected revue artist and character comedienne.

Although at one stage of her career she had been known as "the pin-up girl of British Railways", it was only in 1982 that she became a household name to millions as Phyllis Pearce, the blue-rinsed and gravel-voiced pensioner in Granada Television's *Coronation Street*. In TV's longest-running soap opera Phyllis was renowned as the local hardcase and had opinions about everything, but the most important thing in her life was Percy Sugden, a similarly-natured, grumpy pensioner.

Percy was played by the actor Bill Waddington and three times a week viewers would try to guess whether Phyllis would ever tie the marital knot with him. She was famous for such lines as "Eehh, Percy, luv, come round to my flat. I've made a lovely cake for you — you can just put your feet up and relax." She would give a sly wink and adjust her hair, while Percy promptly made a quick exit.

Jill Summers was born in Eccles, the daughter of Marie Santoni, an actress and singer, while her father, Alf Rozelle, worked in a circus as a tightrope walker. Although she spent some of her childhood with foster parents, her mother was keen that the entire family should work together in the business. Jill had four sisters and a brother, and while she was still only six the family toured the prov-

inces in small-scale revues, in which she emerged as a talented comedienne.

In her early twenties, she started a song and comedy act with her brother Tom. It was then that she damaged her vocal cords hitting a high note and ended up with the voice that became Phyllis Pearce's trademark.

She toured with Ensa during the Second World War, then returned to variety as a solo act, playing major dates in Britain and supporting on many occasions such people as Tommy Trinder, Max Wall, Dick Emery and Arthur Askey. As variety theatres closed in the late 1950s she appeared in summer seasons and pantomimes as a guest artiste, but it was in 1972 that she first appeared in *Corona-*

tion Street as Bessie Proctor, Hilda Ogden's charwoman friend.

Ten years later she was offered the part of Phyllis Pearce, expected to appear for only two weeks. She commented after ten years: "Phyllis grew on me and grew as a character. I loved the part." She appeared in more than 500 episodes of the soap opera, although poor health kept recent appearances to a minimum.

Serious health worries began when she collapsed with angina on *This is Your Life* as Michael Aspel handed her the famous red book.

She married Dr Clifford Simpson-Smith in 1948. They were married for 35 years until his death in 1983. She is survived by an adopted son.



Phyllis Pearce (Jill Summers) and her *Coronation Street* heart-throb Percy Sugden (Bill Waddington)

THE EARL OF BORTHWICK

The 23rd Earl of Borthwick, John Henry Stuart Borthwick of Thak, farmer, died on December 30, aged 91. He was born on September 13, 1905.

AMID Harry Borthwick's achievements, none gave him greater satisfaction than his resumption of a title, dormant since 1910, which originated in one of the most romantic periods in Scotland's history. His successful claim before the Lyon Court, Scotland's court of heraldry, allowed him to take his place in the House of Lords — of which he was an assiduous, if unobtrusive, member — and thus to right a wrong created in part by a 15th-century forgery.

John Henry Stuart Borthwick was born in Borthwick Castle, Midlothian. His father had sold his Moll estates to restore the ancestral seat, in the expectation of succeeding to a title which had been intermittently dormant. The castle was built around 1430 by the 1st Lord Borthwick. Mary Queen of Scots was besieged there by the Confederate Lords in 1567 and its massive, vaulted structure was damaged by Cromwell's army. However, his father's petition for the title failed because he was unable to prove that a superior line had been extinguished, and a year later, in 1911, the family moved to Crookston, where it has lived ever since. Borthwick's father died in 1937.

Many of the household staff came from the Moll estate and at the age of seven Borthwick spoke Gaelic as well as English. He also was fluent in Lowland Scots, the old language of the Scottish court. He regretted his loss: traces of it survive today only in rural areas and in the slipshod urban dialect.

He was educated at Fettes,

and took a diploma in agriculture at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne. During the war he served in the Royal Artillery and worked on air defences for London, Birmingham and the Clyde. He went over to Normandy with the invasion force in 1944 (he was Scottish patron of the Normandy Veterans Association from 1985 until his death) and, after the defeat of Germany, was in charge of food supplies for North Rhine-Westphalia. He spent five years as governor, adviser and then liaison officer at Münster until 1950.

For two years he worked as a livestock inspector with the

tinguished superior "stirpes" (pedigrees) and found that the existence of a 2nd Lord Borthwick had been inferred from forged land deeds.

The process of research and litigation strengthened his interest in Scottish history. He helped to revive the moribund Convention of the Scottish Barons, a relic of pre-Union Scotland. The Scottish feudal barons — whose titles came with the land they owned — attended the Scottish Parliament until its dissolution in 1707 but, after the 1745 rising, their heritable powers of local jurisdiction were removed by an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament. But they retained ceremonial duties and Borthwick was Hereditary Falconer of Scotland to the Queen.

His other passion was the military and hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, the oldest such chivalrous order in Europe. It survives as a charitable organisation, and a Grand Bailiwick was founded in Scotland in 1935. Borthwick helped to revive it after the war, and it raised money to run hospitals in the Third World. A schism developed between two tendencies — those with allegiance to the order's French roots and those who asserted a Spanish Bourbon lineage. Borthwick worked strenuously to achieve a reconciliation.

In the House of Lords he served on various committees and was a regular listener to debates. He also served as a councillor on the old Midlothian County Council and on numerous committees involved with rating, agriculture, landowning and forestry. He was a member of the Standing Council of Scottish (Island) Chiefs.

His wife Margaret Frances, died in 1976. He is survived by twin sons. His heir is John Hugh Borthwick, Master of Borthwick.



Department of Agriculture. When a tenant farmer at Crookston died he took over the farm of 18,000 acres. After ten years of hard work, largely in stock farming, he was able to clear his debts and concentrate on reclaiming the title. He commissioned genealogical research which took advantage of Vatican records and improved the indexing of Scottish public documents. In a 1986 judgment the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Malcolm James of Edinburgh, found that he was the 23rd Earl, not the 24th as Borthwick had believed and the 17th direct male descendant of the 1st Lord Borthwick. The judgment ex-

TOBY FALK

Toby Falk, art historian, died from cancer on January 10 aged 54. He was born on July 6, 1942.

THE early death of Toby Falk has taken from the fine art world one of its most highly respected connoisseurs. His contribution to the field of oriental miniatures and manuscripts, particularly that of Indian painting, was immense.

The younger son of a Wiltshire doctor, Stephen John Falk — invariably known as Toby — grew up in an environment of collecting, with his father patronising the work of modern British artists. Even at the age of three he discovered a silver thimble in what he claimed, was a "dusty corner" at a children's party.

Educated at Rugby and King's College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences, he was a frequent visitor to the London museums and galleries of Bond Street and St James's. In the early Sixties, the Hungarian dealer Andra Kalman spotted his observant eye and felt he might become a painter.

He joined Sotheby's in 1964 as a porter, before moving to the book department to catalogue sales of oriental mini-

atures and manuscripts under the initial guidance of W.G. Archer, B.W. Robinson and Robert Skelton. His catalogues became valuable reference works and the sales of such collections as those of the Armenian collector Hagop Kevorkian, the 19th-century bibliophile Sir Thomas Phillipps and the American scholar Cary Welch were highlights of a period that saw a growing Western interest in Islamic art. His catalogues themselves promoted the advance of knowledge in what had been a little-known area of art history and inspired a new generation of collectors.

In 1972 he published *Qajar Paintings*, a pioneer account of 18th and 19th-century Persian portraits based on the collection of Julian Anstey, which had been sold in its entirety to the Empress of Iran. He left Sotheby's in 1974 (although remaining a consultant) to embark with Mildred Archer on the huge task of cataloguing the collection of Indian miniatures in the India Office. Their thorough and detailed research resulted in *Indian Miniatures in the India Office Library* (1981), a valuable and much welcomed reference work for both academics and collectors.



These books established Toby Falk as a major scholar, and his reputation was reinforced by several exhibition catalogues, most notably the Colnaghi catalogue of important Persian and Mogul art during the Festival of Islam in 1976. He was also editor of *Treasures of Islam* (1985). His rare and unique quality of

being able to advise institutions, galleries and private collectors alike, and his knowledge, integrity and discretion, won him worldwide respect.

In 1989, again with Mildred Archer, he published *India Revealed*, an account of the papers and collection of James and William Fraser, two Scotsmen in India at the

beginning of the 19th century. The Fraser collection included superb Indian watercolours executed for the brothers, a unique group of "Company School" pictures, a term given to work by Indian artists in a Western style, commissioned by their British patrons. The publication of the Fraser collection some seven years ago placed Company School art firmly on the map of oriental painting.

Toby Falk's love of botany was evident from an early age (he won a prize at prep school for a collection of wild flowers) and stayed with him all his life. His concern for the environment in later years was another expression of this love, and oriental paintings of flowers and birds gave him much pleasure, as indicated in *Birds in an Indian Garden* (1984), written with his wife. However, his interests were not confined to oriental art: he was also knowledgeable on antique glass, and in the Sixties when he lived close to Portobello Road he started a wonderful collection of china and pottery jugs.

He is survived by his wife Gail, who made valuable contributions to his research, particularly to *India Revealed*, and their daughter.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Mark Abrey, Assistant Curate, West Derby St Mary: to be Priest-in-charge, Amfield St Margaret, and Chaplain, Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Liverpool).
Canon Bernard Baker, Curate-in-charge, Ryde St James Proprietary Chapel (Porsmouth): to be on the staff at the Amani Christian Training Centre (Crosslinks) in Ruaha, Tanzania.
The Rev Dr William Brierley, Assistant Curate, Amersham in Colchill: to be Team Vicar (designate) in the Wheatley Team Ministry (Oxford).
The Rev Derek Carrivick, Rector, Baxterley W Hurley and Wood End and Merevale W Bentley and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer: to be also Rural Dean of Polesworth, and ceasing as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Birmingham).
The Rev David Chamberlin, Assistant Curate, Chatham SS Philip and James (Rochester): to be Vicar, Swardston W

East Carleton, Intwood, Keswick and Ketteringham (Norwich).
The Rev Nils Chittenden, Assistant Curate, Benfieldside: to be Industrial and Urban Regeneration Chaplain in Gateshead with the Northumbrian Industrial Mission (Durham).
The Rev Trevor Davies, Assistant Curate (NSM), Waverton: is also Honorary Assistant Chaplain, Countess of Chester Hospital (Chester).
The Rev Linda Denness, Assistant Curate (NSM), Portsea St Mary: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Portsmouth Rural Deanery (Portsmouth).
The Rev Kerry Emmett, Rector, Ravenstone and Swamington: to be also Rural Dean, Akeley South (Leicester).
The Rev David Felix, Vicar, Grange: to be also Priest-in-charge, Runcom Holy Trinity (Chester).
The Rev James Florence, Rector, Orsett and Bulphan and Hornodon on the Hill

(Chelmsford): to be Priest-in-charge, Liscard St Mary (Chester).
The Rev James Hair, Assistant Curate, Portchester St Mary: to be Assistant Curate in the Fareham Rural Deanery with special responsibility for Portchester St Mary and Warsash St Mary (Portsmouth).
Canon Kenneth Harris, retired: has been Priest-in-charge (NSM), Ashton Hayes since December 1, 1996 (Chester).
The Rev Sharon Kyle, formerly Assistant Curate, Edinburgh St James (Edinburgh): has been Assistant Curate, Neston since November 1, 1996 (Chester).
The Rev David Meakin, Precursor, Sacrist and Minor Canon, Durham Cathedral: to be Vicar, Ryhope (Durham).

FURIOUS DRIVING

To the Editor of *The Times*
Sir, Mr Hubbard calls your attention to the careless driving of heavy vans, a danger to which all who traverse the streets are daily exposed. Why not compel all vehicles to carry an efficient brake if they require to go faster than five miles an hour, and fine those drivers who exceed that pace, whether an accident result or not from their rapid driving? Brakes are at last becoming pretty generally applied to London omnibuses, much to the relief of the horses drawing them; and it would be no hardship to insist on the possession of a brake by every vehicle passing along our crowded streets.

I am, Sir, &c,
B.H.

ON THIS DAY

January 13, 1879



Despite moving at a speed of ten miles an hour, traffic presented problems and irritation in the streets of the metropolis during the last century, even if pollution was not among them.

A simple impossibility. Farriers do not keep more hands than are requisite for ordinary work, and it is absurd, therefore, to expect that they have the means for roughing at a moment's notice one hundredth part of the horses required for daily public service. Mr Fleming's plan of frost pegs is good enough for private or army purposes, but those who have to deal with the common traffic of London know how impossible it is to apply such means.

As, then, it is not possible to make

SALT ON ROADS

Sir, Much has been written of late about clearing the streets, and much about shoeing and roughing horses to enable them to travel on snow and frosty roads. To rough horses enough for the traffic is

horses fit to travel on slippery roads, why is not attention paid to making the roads safe for ordinary shoes? This can be done in a few minutes. It is done in many of the London parishes by the simple application of a small quantity of salt on the crown of the road.

It is said by the authorities who object to salt that it damages the macadam roads, and that it makes cold water, which is dangerous to health. Both objections are open to dispute, but, admitting them to be true, there remain the questions whether the convenience of free circulation of traffic is not worth some possible cost in repairing of roads, and whether there are not more people who catch cold from being compelled to walk through the snow for want of conveyances than there are persons with thin shoes who get their feet wet in the imaginary salt snow water.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A.G. Church,
General Manager and Secretary,
The London General Omnibus Company (Limited)

Michael Atherton
on England,
captaincy
and life
PAGE 25

MONDAY JANUARY 13 1997

UNITED'S CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE

Beckham serves second helping

White Hart Lane yesterday. Photograph: Mark Aspinall

UNITED'S BIG GAIN

TEAM	PLD	PTS	LATEST
1 LIVERPOOL	23	43	DREW
2 MAN UTD	22	34	LOST
3 ARSENAL	22	40	LOST
4 NEWCASTLE UTD	22	38	DREW
5 WIMBLEDON	20	38	DREW
6 ASTON VILLA	22	36	DREW
7 CHELSEA	22	35	LOST

CITIBANK
THE CITI NEVER SLEEPS

BBC's tennis service cloaked in intrigue

When Tim Henman made it to the semi-finals of the ATP Grand Slam Cup shortly before Christmas there were rumblings of discontent at Eurosport, the pan-European satellite channel. Not fair, they moaned, the Grand Slam was on Sky, which shows only a handful of tennis tournaments a year. We, on the other hand, show every event on the ATP Tour. When was he going to come good for us?

Very soon was the answer, with Henman making it to the final of the Qatar Open before losing to Jim Courier and then threatening to do even better in Sydney, Saturday, then, was supposed to be pay-back time, the big reward for all those hours of hard work that Simon Reed and Co put in commenting on tourna-

ments that most of us have never heard of. Here it was, the final of the Sydney International, "live and exclusive". Actually, it was neither. Not live was understandable. Even if the channel had been able to negotiate a bit of after-hours satellite time, the time difference would still have ensured that the audience for live coverage of Henman versus Moya was tiny. Delayed coverage was fine. After all, under Eurosport's comprehensive agreement with the ATP Tour, it was still exclusive, wasn't it? No, it wasn't — not any more. The BBC, displaying considerable enterprise, somehow negotiated a last-minute deal that allowed it to show both the semi-final against Ivanisevic in Sport on Friday and the final in Grandstand — before Eurosport had a



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

chance to show either game. Once Barry Davies and Bill Threlfall had done their stuff for the BBC, it was hardly worth Reed and Frew McMillan turning up.

The details of the deal are difficult to track down but, under the satellite channel's contract with the ATP Tour, Eurosport is obliged to sub-let the rights to terrestrial broadcasters in "appropriate circumstances". Quite what circumstances would be considered appropriate for the

satellite channel to give away this weekend's crown jewel, however, is anybody's guess. But for those who hold the future of the non-subscription channel dear, let us hope they included a large cheque.

This may yet prove to be little more than opportunist one-off by the BBC but there are signs — worrying for Eurosport but encouraging for those without satellite dishes — that it may not be. Consider the Australian Open, a tournament which in recent years the

satellite channel has been able to make its own. This week its coverage begins in traditional style, with the last two hours of play being shown live here between 10am and noon, followed by up to six hours of delayed coverage of the earlier events.

This week, however, the BBC's coverage of the tournament also begins with round one. Whether Henman plays today or tomorrow, a special highlights programme is to be parachuted into the appropriate evening schedule to chart how our man gets on against Andre Pavel. Whatever the result, the BBC promises this will be followed by updates on Sportsnight on Wednesday, Sport on Friday and Grandstand, before a regular highlights programme gets under way in week two. It concludes

with live coverage of both semi-finals and final. Yes, it's set-the-alarm-clock time again.

Given that the BBC's coverage in recent years has begun and ended with the finals, the corporation seems determined to make the most of television rights acquired through membership of the European Broadcasting Union.

Commentary will be by remote control, with Reed and McMillan commenting off monitors in Eurosport's Paris headquarters and Davies and Threlfall doing the same for the BBC in London. For Davies it could prove a busy time, with the tennis coinciding with the European figure skating championships and the fourth round of the FA Cup. Personally, I'm backing Henman to win all three.

Woods and Lehman in final confrontation

TIGER WOODS, the rookie of the year on the US PGA Tour last year, set up a final-round battle with Tom Lehman, the player of the year, at the Mercedes championship, which begins the season in Carlsbad, California. Woods picked up where he left off last season by recording a third-round seven-under-par 65 to move into joint first place with Lehman, who had led after the first two rounds. Nick Faldo ended the third round 12 shots off the lead after a 71.

Woods, who began the third round trailing Lehman by four strokes, birdied the final four holes to reach a 14-under-par total of 202 along with the British Open champion, Lehman, who scored a third-round 69. The pair stood five strokes clear of fellow American Guy Boros, who shot a 70 to finish at nine-under.

Arnold Palmer has withdrawn from competitive sport to undergo treatment for prostate cancer. Mr Palmer, 67, was optimistic that he could be cured but said that he would retire temporarily "until this thing is taken care of".

Clarke reclaims crown

CYCLING: Barrie Clarke confirmed his top ranking among Britain's cyclo-cross riders yesterday when he regained the national open title. Today he can expect an added bonus with the announcement that he will lead the Great Britain world championship squad in Munich on February 2.

Clarke, the Raleigh team leader, won by eight seconds from Steve Knight, who finished eighth on the same Sutton Coldfield circuit a year ago. Clarke's partner, Caroline Alexander, won the women's title for the fourth time. Photograph, page 34

Fourth win for Wiberg

SKIING: Pernilla Wiberg emerged from a chaotic weekend in Austria closer to her first overall World Cup title. After bad weather had prevented the downhill race at Bad Kleinkirchheim on Friday, Wiberg finished fifth in the downhill on Saturday, won by Heidi Zurbiggen, of Switzerland, before winning the super giant slalom yesterday. It was the Swede's fourth World Cup victory this season. While his rivals struggled, Thomas Sykora, of Austria, mastered conditions at Chamonix to win the men's slalom by an impressive 1.66 seconds.

Fears grow for skipper

SAILING: Hopes were dwindling last night for the Canadian Vendée Globe skipper, Jerry Rous, who has not been heard of for a week after he encountered 70-knot winds and heavy seas 2,600 miles west of Chile. Yesterday Marc Thiercelin, the French skipper, who was one place behind Rous in third position, gave up his search for his friend. Bullimore's tonic, page 33

Close call for champions

BOWLS: The Australians, Kelvin Kerkow and Ian Schuback, using the Woodside International Masters pairs tournament at Co Antrim to prepare for the defence of their pairs indoor title at Preston next week, stretched the 1994 world indoor champions, Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, from Kent, before losing 5-7, 7-6, 7-3. The Australian pair had won their previous two matches.

Saive sweeps to title

TABLE TENNIS: The Belgian champion, Jon-Michel Saive, won the English Open championship at Kettering last night after overwhelming Peter Korbel, of the Czech Republic, 21-10, 21-15, 21-19 in the final. In the women's final, Tong Feiming, of Taipei, who spent 1995 playing in England but is now based in Germany, defeated the top seed, Chi Po Wa, of Hong Kong, 21-10, 23-21, 21-10.

Steelers come through

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils and Sheffield Steelers continue to dominate the Superleague and both won on Saturday. The Steelers recovered from their midweek reverse in Wales with a 4-3 overtime win over Basingstoke Bison. The Devils travelled to Scotland and beat Ayr Scottish Eagles 7-4, with Vezio Saccaconi scoring three times. Nottingham Panthers beat Bracknell Bees 6-5.

HOCKEY

Second-half goal spree by St Albans

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ST ALBANS pulled themselves out of a tight corner at East Grinstead yesterday to beat Reading 8-5 and qualify for finals night of the National Indoor Club championship at Crystal Palace on February 7.

Drawing heavily on their experience, St Albans scored six goals in the second half, having been 4-2 down at half-time. Reading took a 2-0 lead through Osofrot and although St Albans levelled the scores through Halliday and Ashdown, Wyatt, from a penalty stroke, restored Reading's advantage. St Albans fought a tense uphill battle in the second half and sealed the victory with two late goals by Jennings and one by Wyatt. If Reading had won they would have qualified.

Earlier in the day, St Albans had captured much of the glory in a 6-6 draw with Old Loughtonians, who led 5-3 at the interval and increased their advantage with another goal by Ralph early in the second half from a penalty stroke. Halliday and Jennings inspired the recovery of St Albans.

East Grinstead, who won all their matches, finished on top of this pool with Old Loughtonians second and St Albans third. On the other pool, Perdiswell, Worcester, Harborne, Cannock and Doncaster qualified. Doncaster, who finished with the same points tally as Hull, survived on goal-difference under the Hockey Association rules.

Earlier, Harborne secured the biggest surprise by defeating Cannock 8-6.

Results, page 34

BASKETBALL

Royals kick their long losing habit

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE celebrations were unrestrained. Hemel and Watford Royals had just beaten Converse Crystal Palace 86-83 and for a team that had not savoured the sweetness of victory since March 30, 1996, it was Saturday night to remember.

The club had lost its last three Budweiser League games last season, all 16 league fixtures this season, and six group matches in the 7Up Trophy. Never mind that the team they beat was the one immediately above them.

That mattered little to the supporters who cheered each home player as he arrived in the bar afterwards, as well as the club's beleaguered owner and coach, Vince Macaulay-Razaq, who had told his squad recently: "Start playing for me, or I'll bring in players who will."

Sam Stiller, once a prolific scorer at Bracknell and Kingston, had returned from Israel to be added to the roster but the decisive contributions came from the regular starters, led by Derek Vogel. The 6ft 6in American forward collected 34 points.

Palace, convinced in their own defeat, Of 19 attempts from the free-throw line, they were successful with only four.

Palace were awful from the line but it was not as if they gave up the game. Macaulay-Razaq said: "We still had to fight."

Macaulay-Razaq and Chester led the joint leaders, both 10-0, by three points at Derby and Chester by one at Birmingham.

Results and table, page 34

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goulding inspires St Helens to victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ST HELENS, the Super League champions, won the first Norweb Challenge Trophy thanks to an inspired second-half display against Wigan at Knowsley Road yesterday. Trailing 32-22 from the first leg on Boxing Day, it took Saints until four minutes before the break to draw level on aggregate with the first of Karlie Hammond's two tries.

Wigan fielded an inexperienced team without nine internationals. They duly ran out of steam and Saints added five tries in the second half for a 66-44 victory overall.

Bobbie Goulding was at the centre of most of his side's attacks. The St Helens captain scored a try and kicked six goals. Apollo Percini, Vila Matutia and Alan Hunte scored other tries.

Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, said: "It was a vastly-improved display from Boxing Day and certainly the return of players like Bobbie Goulding, Keiron Cunningham, Karlie Hammond and Tommy Martyn proved crucial. I was impressed with our defensive efforts, conceding only two tries."

Fears that Wigan would be forced to sell Va'anga Tuigamala, who has been playing rugby union for Wasps, have receded with the sale of their ground, Central Park, to David Whelan, the Wigan Athletic Football Club chairman, for £4 million. The deal has cleared the club's debts and Tuigamala, 27, is back in training. Central Park is now to be redeveloped at a cost of £11 million.

Wasps' loss, page 30

BOXING

Big fight flop does little for Akinwande

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HENRY AKINWANDE came no nearer winning a place in British hearts despite successfully defending his World Boxing Organisation heavyweight title against Scott Welch, of Brighton, in Nashville, Tennessee on Saturday. It was not that Akinwande boxed badly — technically he was impressive and looked very much a leading contender for the undisputed world championship — it was simply because Welch put up a very poor performance, thereby pulling down the contest. Also it was disappointing that Akinwande was not able to knock out the challenger, despite punching him all round the ring for 12 rounds.

I watched the bout in a pub in Hackney that shows important sporting events but the regulars were only there for the beer or pool. They showed no interest in what was going on on the big screen. No doubt, once they saw the man with the Union Jack on his trunks unable to get past the 6ft 7in champion's left hand and getting his ears boxed off, they lost interest.

Welch, who threatened much before the contest, produced precious little when the bell went. He was out of his depth and up to his eyes in trouble once Akinwande started punting his punches together. The Brighton man was only able to land four

punches in the whole contest that were worth noting. None had much effect on Akinwande.

At the end of a frustrating bout for the punters, who wanted Welch to throw punches but could not understand why he did not, Akinwande was given the verdict 120-108, 120-108, 110-109.

Frank Warren, the London promoter behind Welch, was severely critical of his showing. Warren said: "It was the worst performance I have seen from a British boxer fighting for a world title. He seemed to freeze up. When he sees a film of the fight, he will be so sick."

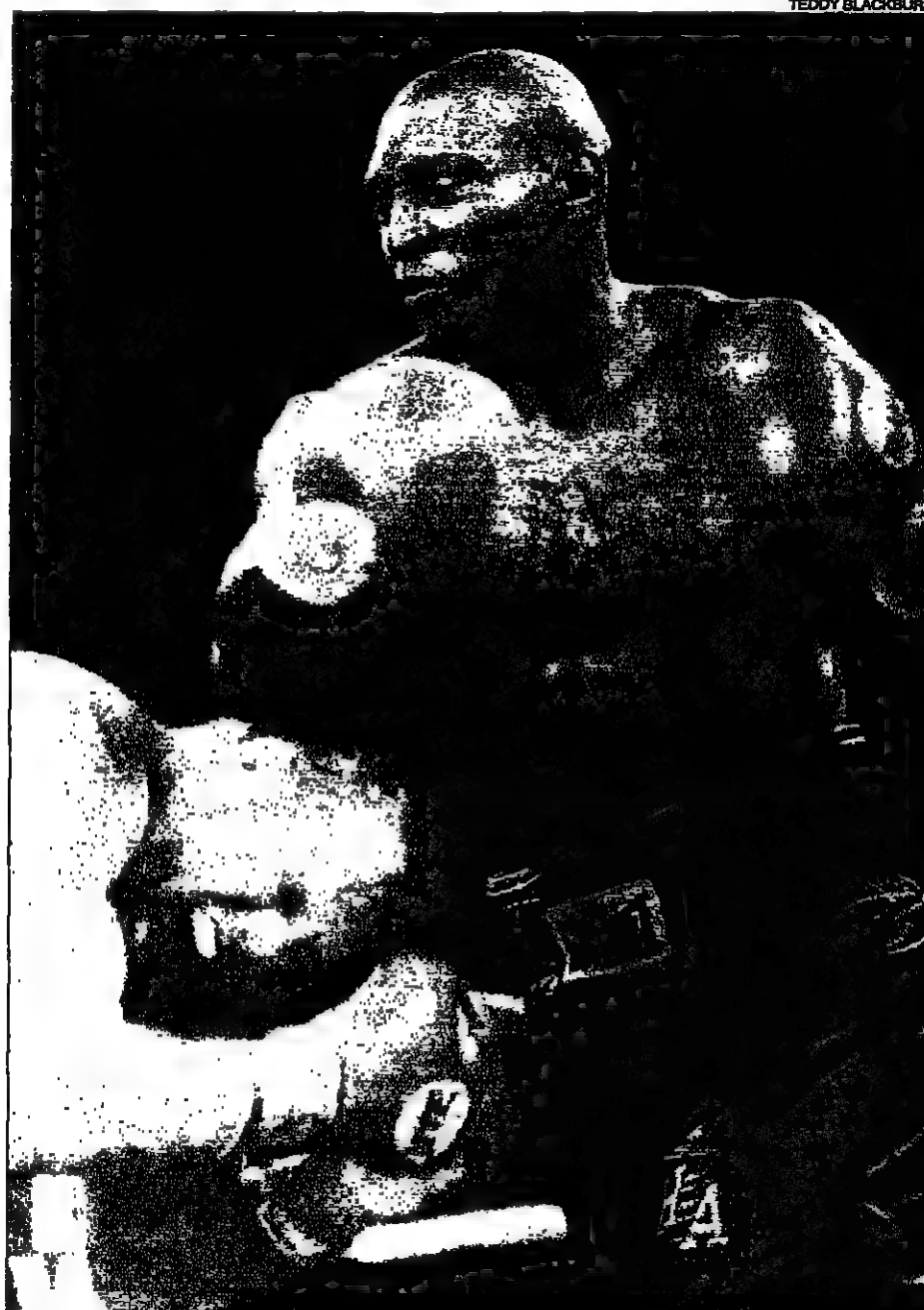
"It was the easiest chance he had had of winning a world title by fighting Akinwande. He was made for him. He wouldn't beat Michael Moore or Evander Holyfield or guys like that. I am fed up about it. I told him if he was not going to throw punches, he might as well not be in there."

Akinwande said: "Welch said he was fighting for his country. But you could see he didn't want to fight. The way he was talking before the fight, I thought he was going to come out like some Rambo but he just ran away like a big sissy."

Welch had no excuses for his failure. "I threw it away," he said. "It was my first shot at the world title and I failed miserably."

Frank Maloney, the manager of Lennox Lewis, who will meet Akinwande if he beats Oliver McCall next month in Las Vegas, said: "It was the poorest world heavyweight championship I have seen. Akinwande could not even knock him out. That is what is expected of big guys at this level. Didn't you hear his trainer [Don Turner] telling him in the last round 'I want you to knock him out'?"

But Maloney admitted that Akinwande cannot be taken lightly. Akinwande looked a greatly-improved boxer. At 6ft 8½in he has gained the shoulders to throw hurtful punches. It is a pity that his chin was not tested by Welch.



Welch ducks and covers up as Akinwande goes on the attack in Nashville

but no doubt Lewis will do that when they meet later this year. Maloney expects Akinwande to be at least 20 per cent better for that fight.

On the undercard, the forecast of Kevin Lueshing of "it will be me or him" for his bout with Felix Trinidad, the Inter-

national Boxing Federation welterweight champion, proved to be right. Lueshing was stopped in the third round. It was an explosive affair after a cautious first round by both men.

Lueshing floored the champion in the second round but was unable to finish the job. It was in the next round that the champion finished off the Beckenham man.

Warren said of Lueshing: "With more experience under his belt, he could have another world title chance. He showed real heart."

Battered McMillan may bow out

COLIN McMILLAN is unlikely to carry on boxing. On Saturday, after he was stopped in the eighth round, defending his British featherweight title against Paul Ingle, of Scarborough, McMillan said he was considering retirement (Srikumar Sen writes).

Battered and bruised, the former champion said: "From the way I feel tonight, I will probably not fight any more. I will have a look at the video next week and make my decision. I don't want to carry on boxing as an opponent."

It will be surprising if McMillan ignores the message of the video. He was badly beaten up by Ingle. He no longer has the reflex-

es that made him the finest boxer in the country four years ago. He cannot avoid punches nor retaliate with those quick combinations. Had it been the McMillan of yesterday, before he wrenched his left shoulder defending his WBO title against Ruben Palacios, Ingle would not have laid a glove on him.

On Saturday, at York Hall, Ingle, six years younger at 24, had no trouble finding McMillan, whose eyebrows and cheek were badly gashed by the fourth round. Covered in blood, the old warrior fought back, before going down under a barrage of hooks and uppercuts in the eighth round.

Frank Maloney, Ingle's manager, said he believed Ingle would be ready to challenge for Naseem Hamed's title in 18 months' time.

Wayne McCullough, of Northern Ireland, suffered his first defeat when he was beaten on points by Daniel Zaragoza, the WBC super bantamweight champion, in Boston. The 39-year-old Medcun was too experienced for the WBC bantamweight champion.

The veteran champion gave McCullough a boxing lesson in the early rounds, catching him with stinging left counters. McCullough came back in the last two or three rounds but was unable to make up the points deficit.

Caine finished third. "I cannot believe it," he said. "This is only my second Inter-County. I was 99th two years ago." And the County Durham meeting? "I would say yes, put it here, it is a good course," Christian Stephenson, the senior men's winner, agreed.

Avon and Somerset men's team champions despite fielding four reserves, were so happy they would probably have agreed to anything.

Hearing that County Durham's sponsorship has ended, and that the organisers would consider moving, Roy Davis, leader of Luton Borough Council, said he would be contacting the event director, John Caine. John's son, Andrew, is bound to give a glowing report of the course after running the race of his life to lead North East Counties to the junior men's team title, succeeding where Steve Cram, Charlie Spedding and Mike McLeod, Olympic medal winners all failed.

Results, page 34

ATHLETICS: VERSATILE YOUNGSTER EXCELS IN THE POOL AND ON THE TRACK

Swallow on song for Olympic goal

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of these days, perhaps, Jodie Swallow will turn up at the swimming pool when she is supposed to be at the track. Such a mistake would be forgivable in the cause of trying to become the first Briton to swim at one Olympic Games and run in the next.

Anybody who doubts such a double is possible should see Swallow's attic in Brentwood. She estimates that she has more than 200 trophies up there and she is only 15. Last year she won ten national and international titles, six as an athlete, four as a swimmer.

On Saturday Swallow was back in Luton, at Wignmore Valley Park cross-country course, rather than the pool where, last year, she won the English Schools 200 metres individual medley. With the biggest winning margin of the day's ten races, Swallow tri-

umphed by 100 metres in the under-17 women's 5,000 metres.

Her victories last year included the ASA senior 400 metres individual medley and an eight-nations 200 metres individual medley. The English Schools and Home International 3,000 metres on the track, and the English Schools, Home International and English National cross-country titles. These were achieved at no cost to her schoolwork: she got eight A grades in her GCSE mocks.

Swallow is "not really sure" whether she prefers swimming or running. "I would like to make two successive Olympics — Sydney 2000 in swimming and 2004 in running," she said.

She reached the final of the European junior 200 metres individual medley last year and her aim this year is to win a medal. Not that she is less committed to running: having

won her ASA title in Leeds, she took gold in the English Schools 3,000 metres in Sheffield the following day.

If one Swallow can make two Olympic summers, she may be tempted to try for a third in triathlon in 2008. How is Jodie's cycling? "The thought of starting a new discipline is too daunting," Peter, her father, replied. Once

the Olympic wheel starts turning, though, it may be difficult to stop.

Luton, having staged this 71-year-old event for four successive years, and having secured the 1998 World University championships, wants to stage the annual Bupa County Durham meeting, which attracts world and European champions.

Hearing that County Dur-

Good-bye battery



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Atherton reveals that his term in office is unlikely to extend beyond the Ashes

Leader who has leaving on his mind

Michael Atherton has known some trying times in his four years as England captain but the past two months have been as testing as any. When he went to Zimbabwe in November his back was so bad he could not touch his toes. When he left Africa last week those toes were not touching the ground. He had been tried and convicted in a media courtroom, and had a noose fixed round his neck.

Perhaps it is gallow humour that makes him seem so chirpy. Whatever, Atherton cuts a composed figure as England begin their tour of New Zealand with a four-day match in Palmerston North today. This is an important year for him. He has a benefit season at Lancashire and a book purporting to tell his life story, to which he realises he should have withheld his assent, is due out in the summer.

Then there is the little matter of the Ashes. Atherton would like to lead England against Australia; whether he is invited depends to a large extent on how well the team performs in New Zealand. If England play poorly, nobody will need to tell him to stand down. Already he is thinking of a career beyond cricket, not necessarily within the game. He will not be short of offers because he is an intelligent, well-rounded man whose gifts are apparent to those who observe him close-up. Before then there are still some things he wants to achieve as a player.

The best thing one can say about Atherton is that, although cricket means a lot to him, it has never been more than a game. He has a sense of humour, and can only laugh at the spectacle of a national newspaper, the one that demanded he be knighted 14 months ago, calling for his head on a silver salver.

I know Atherton well. He looks happier than for some time, in the knowledge that his term in office is drawing to a close. I hope he can take his leave as he chooses, but I am pleased he is going soon. It means we can all get down to the delightful business of ripping somebody else's head off.

MH: Despite the wretched tour of Zimbabwe, and the criticism heaped upon you, you appear in good fettle.

MA: I am. I have not enjoyed the way things have gone on the field, but away from the cricket I am enjoying myself, as always.

MH: Touring is hard enough work when you're winning. How do you cope when the team is losing?

MA: I enjoy touring, full stop. Always have done. You enjoy the company of your teammates and the challenge of the cricket, which takes a large part of your time, and you don't take everything so seriously. There is a danger of getting wrapped up in yourself but I try to keep a sense of proportion and a clear per-



The captain's lot is not all misery, as he tells Michael Henderson

spective. Failure is never fatal. Success is not final. There's a cliché for you!

MH: There have been some rude things written and said about this team and this tour. Does that hurt?

MA: The coverage has been a bit abusive but, being away from home, we don't see a great deal of it. We tend to hear second-hand about the bad pieces. Somebody will say "so-and-so has written such-and-such" but, by and large, the day-to-day stuff is hidden from us, and a good job too. It is so much easier if you don't read the papers. If you do it becomes more difficult to

I know I have this image as somebody who is grumpy

MA: I have felt on this trip, and I want to be careful not to make this sound like whingeing, that the written press has been an undermining factor, and I have said so to a couple of journalists. The piece I am referring to, however, on the bandwagon after that first cocktail party, I don't think they gave the team a fair chance. The broadsheets can be more dangerous than the tabloids. You know the nature of the beast with the tabloids and, once you've got over the headlines, you don't take too much notice of what is written. Some of the broadsheets, particularly those on Sunday, have 1,000 words to fill, often devoting a couple of pages to cricket, and what appears there can be damaging.

MH: You're a private person in a very public job. How do you handle so much scrutiny, and mockery?

MA: You come to terms with it. As captain, it goes with the territory. I have never been good at using the press as an image-making machine for myself. I know I have this image as somebody who is grumpy, and down, and mis-



Hussain: intense

erable, which I think is far from the truth. But once you have that image it is hard to lose. That's life.

MH: In Zimbabwe the England team was perceived as detached, to the point of being rude. Do the players lack curiosity about the places they visit?

MA: The first part of that is nonsense. We had one day off in Zimbabwe, when everybody went to Victoria Falls except those who had already been there, and we had a five-hour journey to Harare. It would have been nice to get about more, to see places, but the itinerary didn't allow us any spare time. It simply wasn't possible. As for rude behaviour, people jumped on the bandwagon after the first week. There was a private party at the British High Commissioner's residence at 5.30pm on our first day in Harare, a day when we had fitted in two training sessions. I don't think you can expect people to be the life and soul of the party in those circumstances. The journalists had been invited to a private function and should not have been looking for a story. I don't think we were rude to the locals. I'm not sure there was a massive amount of hospitality offered to us in any case.

A team is made up of different characters. If the likes of Crawley and Mullally enjoy spending an evening in their room playing their guitars then some people might frown, but players relax in their own ways, and it is not for me as captain to tell them otherwise.

MH: Being England captain is almost a thankless task. Can anybody be groomed adequately for it?

MA: What the new board might do, if they identify somebody early enough and realise that he could become England captain, is help him with regard to media work, and how to deal with the demands of the job. A management course might be helpful, too. Some people might not get anything out of it but, there again, others might.

MH: You don't give much away. In defeat that reticence gives people the chance to unload some things that might otherwise remain un-

MA: I have felt on this trip, and I want to be careful not to make this sound like whingeing, that the written press has been an undermining factor, and I have said so to a couple of journalists. The piece I am referring to, however, on the bandwagon after that first cocktail party, I don't think they gave the team a fair chance. The broadsheets can be more dangerous than the tabloids. You know the nature of the beast with the tabloids and, once you've got over the headlines, you don't take too much notice of what is written. Some of the broadsheets, particularly those on Sunday, have 1,000 words to fill, often devoting a couple of pages to cricket, and what appears there can be damaging.

MH: How much petrol is left in the captain's tank?

MA: I can't see me doing it for much longer. If the second part of this winter's tour goes well then I would like to do the job in the summer, against Australia. If it does not go well then I won't be doing it any longer. That much is obvious. MH: Ideally, you would like to have one last go at Australia?

MA: I would like to have the chance, because it would



Despite the criticism heaped upon him, Atherton is cheerful as England embark on the second leg of their winter tour

MH: In those circumstances, how do you enjoy your cricket?

MA: The challenge is enjoyable, the challenge of producing a team that plays consistently good cricket, the selection of it and the way it plays. That challenge is still there because we are not winning consistently, but you do tend to become a bit cynical over a period of time, which is rather sad.

Actually, I have really enjoyed being captain on this trip. My form has been poor but that has not harmed my overall enjoyment. What I have really enjoyed doing is working with a balanced bowling attack of three seamers and two spin bowlers, handling those bowlers and setting fields for them. David Houghton smashed us around for a century when he was playing for Mashonaland but he did not pass fifty in the Tests.

MH: How much petrol is left in the captain's tank?

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MA: I would like to have the chance, because it would

mean we had finished this series successfully. But we must buck up.

MH: And then make way for another man?

MA: It's difficult to say because if we won every Test in New Zealand, and then beat Australia... who can say? But it appears an obvious break point. Graham Gooch did it for four years, from 1989 to 1993. I've done the job since then. A four-year period constitutes a round circle of events, and encapsulates most series and most challenges a captain can expect, and by the end of next summer I have done that. If there is such a thing as a natural period of office then that is it.



Lloyd: enthusiastic

MH: Nasser Hussain has been publicly anointed as your likely successor. Would he have your blessing?

MA: Sure. I have known Nasser since we were both 15. He is an intense cricketer, the type of player I like. He has lots to offer.

MH: You're not making runs. Is the burden of leading a losing team getting to you?

MA: Absolutely not. Getting the captaincy was initially the spur to a run of decent form. It is quite misleading to suggest that the captaincy has burdened my batting because the last three years have been the best of my Test career. It is a misconception that I am fed up with that burden. I'm not. But I am out of form and I'm not happy with that.

MH: Otherwise, you are happy?

MA: I am. I have always tried to keep a sense of proportion. Nobody gets shot in this game. Nobody gets killed.

MH: How are things between you and David Lloyd?

MA: Very good. It's a fairly simple relationship. He prepares the side before the game, and will organise practice sessions. I take the team into the field. During the game it is my domain. There are clear lines of demarcation.

MH: Have you spoken to Raymond Illingworth recently?

MA: He rang me before we came out, to wish us well.

MH: It's a new year, in your case a benefit year. Do you think that New Zealand represents a new start?

MA: Yes. This is a good place to start again. Immediately you get here there is a breeze, a harbour, water. The place is pleasant and the people are friendly. The immediate impressions are favourable.

MH: Talking of impressions, are you aware of people's impressions of your side, that they sometimes appear surly?

MA: Surly to whom?

MH: To the public at large. It's a general impression.

MA: I don't think that is true at all.

MH: In retrospect, do you regret that last day in Bul-

'Once you have that image it is hard to lose'

wayo? Lloyd's comments that "we murdered them", and all that?

MA: Well, you have to understand the situation on that final afternoon. It was an extremely emotional time. We were going hell for leather for the runs, 205 in 37 overs, which were effectively 22 or 23 overs in terms of the balls we could hit. It would have been a considerable achievement to have got the runs. Feelings were running high, particularly in that last over. Given that background it's not surprising it was a highly charged press conference. It looks bad, sure. So what?

The thing about "Bumble" is that he has great passion and enthusiasm, and those are things that people say we lack. We also do too many press conferences. I think we are too available to the press and sometimes we will make errors.

MH: When are you going to start making some hundreds again?

MA: Technically I have been playing poorly for a year and up till now have got away with it. The mistakes are catching up with me and once mistakes creep in, then, given the amount of cricket we play, small faults can become bigger ones.

There is some work to do but I am not going to go into it. A, because it is a technical thing, not always easy to talk about, and, B, because it is for nobody's ears but mine. I'm working like stink to put it right. There is no magic formula except a good attitude and hard work.

MH: You are an independent man, more so than most sportsmen, in the sense that you don't need your teammates around you all the time. How has life been this winter, away from cricket?

MA: I enjoy my team-mates, actually. They are my priority. You play for them. But, yes, it is important away from cricket to maintain individuality and develop your own interests.

MH: What are you reading at the moment?

MA: Some short stories by William Trevor. But I'm finding it difficult to read on this tour. I'm playing a lot of chess. I'm leading Ernie Juhn Embury, the team's bowling coach, 14-11 in our little tournament!

MH: You're quite an angler now. Have you caught anything?

MA: I would like to catch some fish here but that's Trout's John Barclay, the tour manager's department. He has to do something on this tour!

Lloyd puts faith in White

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN PALMERSTON NORTH

CRAIG WHITE belatedly joined the England touring party here yesterday and within hours was handed the opportunity to claim a place in the Test XI.

The 27-year-old all-rounder had been given a week's leave of absence to spend with his parents in the Australian mining town of Bendigo after interrupting a holiday to fly to Zimbabwe before Christmas to cover for the injured Ronnie Irani. White, who had little time to acclimatise, played without distinction in the second Test at Harare but has now clearly leapfrogged his Essex counterpart.

He was named in the team to play in the four-day game against a New Zealand select XI and given a clear signal by David Lloyd, the England coach, that he is very much in the selectors' minds for the three-Test series which starts in Auckland on January 24.

Lloyd has received glowing reports from Mike Gatting on White's performances on the England A tour of Australia, on which he took 19 first-class

wickets and scored more than 300 runs despite having to cope with persistent "sledding" for his switch of allegiance after representing Young Australia.

In an England career dogged by injury, White has appeared in seven Tests in 2½ years. Lloyd hopes he will now be able to fulfil the promise that made him such a favourite of Ray Illingworth during his time as chairman of selectors.

"Craig was given a hard time in Australia and could have shrunk away from it," Lloyd said. "But he responded really well to the challenge and now has the chance of a run in the side. He has it in him to become our all-rounder. He can be a quality batsman and bowls some difficult deliveries from what looks like an innocuous action."

That was certainly the case yesterday as England practised in gale-force winds brought in by Cyclone Drena. One delivery climbed off a length and hit John Crawley

on the hand. The Lancashire batsman was glad to be reassured by the team physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, that no bones had been damaged.

White's elevation means that, barring injuries, there is little part left to be played by Irani while Jack Russell, the specialist wicketkeeper, is another player virtually certain to be sidelined over the next seven weeks.

Russell was selected for only two limited-overs warm-up games in Zimbabwe as Alec Stewart wore the gloves in all the main fixtures and, while he took part in the rain-hit match against the New Zealand Academy on Friday, he is once again unemployed now that England have returned to the first-class arena.

Given that Russell is being paid a tour fee in excess of £25,000 and as a batsman has faced only 17 balls in anger since England left home on November 25, he can draw just one small consolation — on piece-rates he must be the highest-paid international cricketer in the world.

Lara excludes Australia

By Our Sports Staff

THE West Indies pulled off a nerve-tugging four-wicket win over Australia in Perth yesterday to shut the home side out of the World Series limited-overs tournament finals for the first time since 1979-80. Brian Lara smashed a majestic 90 off 110 balls as the West Indies reached their victory target of 268 with four balls to spare at the WACA ground.

Australia, deciding to bat

first, built their 267 for seven around a scintillating 92 from the in-form batsman, Mark Waugh. Just when Australia looked set for victory in the cut-throat encounter, Lara and Robert Samuels (36 off 24 balls) shared a pulsating 80-run stand for the sixth wicket off 51 balls.

Lara, who fashioned West Indies' five-wicket win over Pakistan on Friday with an

unbeaten 103, was unfortunate to miss his third century in as many outings. He was caught at long-on off the last ball of the penultimate over, bowled by Shane Warne.

Australia had appeared to have the upper hand when the West Indies needed 66 from the last seven overs. But Lara took 14 and 11 off Warne's next two overs, including two towering sixes off successive balls.

Australia paid dearly for missing Lara on 22 — Glenn McGrath dropping a relatively easy chance off the spinner, Michael Bevan.

Earlier, pinch-hitting opener Junior Murray set the stage with 56 off 67 balls, putting on 60 for the first wicket with Campbell, who scored 15. Lara and Shivnarine Chandepaul, with 49, added 85 for the third wicket.

Both teams will go through the formalities of playing Pakistan — the West Indies tomorrow and Australia on Thursday. The first match in the best-of-three final between Pakistan and the West Indies is in Sydney on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD FROM PERTH

AUSTRALIA		WEST INDIES	
M E Waugh c Adams b Chanderpaul	92	S Chanderpaul run out	49
M A Taylor b Ambrose	15	J C Adams c S R Waugh b Moody	8
S G Law c and b Adams	14	C Hooper c McGrath b Moody	8
S R Waugh c Griffin b Chanderpaul	29	R G Samuels not out	36
T M Moody c Adams b Hooper	0	A F G Griffin not out	0
M G Bevan c Griffin b Ambrose	35	Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 3)	15
G S Bennett run out	28	Total (6 wickets, 48.2 overs)	269
T A Healy not out	16	I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh did not bat	
S K Warne not out	10	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60, 2-80, 3-165, 4-158, 5-191, 6-217, 7-287	
Extras (b 6, w 7, nb 5)	24		
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	227		
A M Bichel and G D McGrath did not bat			
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-63, 2-82, 3-147, 4-188, 5-191, 6-217, 7-287			
BOWLING: Waugh 10-0-53-0; Bishop 9-0-48-0; Ambrose 10-0-53-2; Adams 8-0-52-1; Hooper 9-0-35-1; Chanderpaul 4-0-18-2			
WEST INDIES		AUSTRALIA	
S I Campbell c Taylor b Warne	15	West Indies	7
T M Murray c Law b Bevan	56	Pakistan	7
B C Lara c Law b Warne	50	Australia	103

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FOOTBALL: MANAGERLESS NEWCASTLE THROW AWAY TWO-GOAL LEAD IN TYPICAL CAVALIER STYLE

Keegan gone but melody lingers on

Aston Villa 2
Newcastle United 2

By Ross Hughes
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SPORTING life would be as grey as the West Midlands weather on Saturday if one could erase a man's style, his spirit, his errors the moment he turns his back.

There was, therefore, something reassuring about the performance of Newcastle United at Villa Park. Like magpies, they stole into a two-goal lead, they surrendered it, they could have lost to a penalty, and they ended up flying forward in pursuit of victory.

King Kevin has gone, but the melody lingers on. Whether or not the Newcastle chairman, Sir John Hall, through purse and persuasion, can tonight change the mind of Bobby Robson, talk him into renegeing on his promise to stay at Barcelona, the truth remains that Keegan's legacy is a flawed one. It has, despite the injuries to Ginola, Asprilla and Ferdinand, an imbalance, a preference from Keegan's own heart that favours attacking flair and is almost myopic towards defensive solidity.

Whoever takes over will have to rectify this weakness, starting with the goalkeeper, and continuing with the inadequacies of the pivotal defender, Peacock.

The way Aston Villa clawed their way back was engineered in the dressing-room — a half-time switch of tactics by Brian Little, the manager, who, just because Newcastle may have wanted him, has profited by a new five-year contract from Doug Ellis, the chairman.

Whether the chairman or the manager were comfortable about that after 20 minutes on Saturday is another matter. For, in the sixteenth minute, Staunton was woefully exposed by Shearer. When Beardsley, who yet could be groomed as a future guide and coach to Newcastle, released the ball forward into the inside left channel, it was barely an invitation.

It was Staunton's ball, yet he allowed Shearer to outpace him, to muscle him off it, to make another five yards, and then with breathtaking self-belief to drive home his shot, low and hard and just inside



Yorke, the Villa striker, shoots beyond Hislop, the Newcastle goalkeeper, but wide when given the chance to win a fluctuating match

the penalty box, beneath the dive of Bosnich.

It was Shearer's eighteenth goal of the season, and what nonsense some reporters spread when they suggest that Juventus are seeking an exchange deal, taking Shearer to Turin and sending Alessandro Del Piero to Tyneside. Shearer is the most potent symbol of Newcastle and of the English game. Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, may covet such power and industry, but Shearer could not play for him this season in the European Cup. So forget any deal.

We could not longer Shearer. His presence, his touch, was blamed for the slip on the turf that cost Borussia a second goal in the 21st minute. To be sure, when he had the ball

safely in his hands, the goalkeeper was lightly touched from behind by the England centre forward. However, his standing foot fell from beneath him two yards further on, and when he attempted to kick the ball, it went to Clark, who promptly, splendidly, kicked it straight back over his head, over Staunton, into the unguarded net.

The Gordie fanatics, grouped around a banner that read "Thanks for the memories, Kevin," had changed their tune. "Jerry Mac" they chanted, to the acting manager, McDermott. But he, emotionally drained by the week, the right-hand man to all Keegan's work, was to sum up correctly: "Nothing's changed, you score, we score... It was

the same as when Kevin was here."

The very same. Had Newcastle reached half-time safe in their two-goal lead, the new era might have been launched. Instead, Albert tripped over the ball, Yorke took advantage and was then

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body-checked by Peacock. It was five minutes before the interval, five seconds from calamity. Southgate took the free kick, Albert headed it to his right, and Wright side-footed the ball back across the goal for Yorke to score.

After half-time, with Southgate moved back from midfield to police Shearer and with Staunton galvanic in midfield, the tactical change put Villa in the ascendancy. The equaliser came after 51 minutes, the interpassing between Staunton and Yorke cutting through some horrific defending before Milosevic claimed his fourth goal from five matches, preying on the loose ball when Hislop had done well to parry a shot from Staunton. Now the Hots End teased their visitors:

"Keegan's playing golf!" Yorke could have had three goals. Instead he had to be taken off with a thigh strain after twice shooting wide, and, crucially, hitting a penalty feebly and so close to Hislop

that the big goalkeeper was able to block it, and the rebound. The penalty had come when Albert, unwise to the fact that Milosevic seldom shoots with his right foot, recklessly tackled him, and missed the ball.

In the end a draw was the right result. And, long after it, McDermott was beginning and ending every sentence with the name of Kevin, but his pal and mentor had gone, a public man suddenly no more visible than a swallow in midwinter.

APTON VILLA (3-1-2): M Bosnich — U Elliott, S Staunton, C Thur — F Nelson (sub: R Schuster, 30min), A Townsend, G Southgate, A Wright — I Johnson — D Young (sub: J Johnston, 69), S Milosevic. NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): S Hislop — P Peacock, P Abbott, J Beardsley — K Ollivier, D Bury, L Clark, R Elliott — P Buxton — A Shearer. Referee: G Poll.

Chairman's casting vote leaves Robson on edge

Middlesbrough 0
Southampton 1

By Simon Barnes

NEVER mind policemen. It is when self-made multimillionaires start looking like schoolboys that you know you are getting odd. I didn't know he was a millionaire, though. The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, made a point of telling me that we all somehow knew, simply called him Steve. I had to fall back on my skills in investigative journalism. Shiny-faced and curly-haired, he was so sincere that first I took him for something in public relations. Then I gathered that he was in the middle of giving the manager a vote of confidence. This would be an impertinence in a PR boy. Brilliantly, I deduced that, strange though it seemed, this was the chairman.

And I was right. This was Steve Gibson, 37, grown-up, hard-nosed haulage mogul and boyish football sucker. The pair had taken the unusual step of addressing the press before the match had even begun. They did so in order to stress their overwhelming love for each other. Some rotten newspapers said that Robson had offered his resignation. Outrageous! We cannot allow such stories to continue!

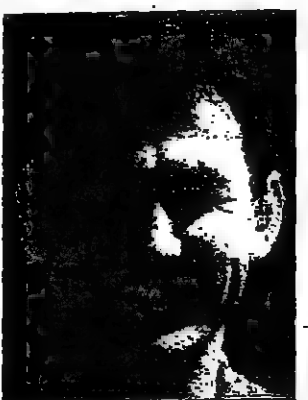
They left, more or less arm-in-arm, beneath a hall of confetti and their football team then proceeded to make a complete hash of the ensuing match. The near-40-million-quidsworth of exotic talent looked clueless and, for that matter, spineless. A soft touch: odd that one of the hardest men to have kicked a football in recent years could produce so hapless a side.

They lost to Southampton and so dived to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. There is no ducking the matter, or hiding it behind loving smiles: this is a truly terrible season, the worst so far in a truly terrible season. We often consider, in cup games or watching Wimbledon, the great footballing mystery in which the team is greater than the sum of its parts. Middlesbrough lack this elevating

talent for multiplication. Instead, they have subtraction. Or perhaps division. A team so much less than the sum of its high-priced and hand-picked parts has never before been seen in English football.

The case for the defence says that they have done all right in cups. They even beat Liverpool in the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek. But to call a team "a good cup side" is like calling a rugby union man "a good reverse player", or a cricketer "a good one-day player". That is to say, not quite the real thing. Killer stat: Middlesbrough have scored 26 goals in six cup games this season; in 22 Premiership matches they have scored 25.

Southampton, another struggling team led by a former player of legendary hardness, Graeme Souness,



Robson: desperate

have also been something of a soft touch this season. But they came up to Middlesbrough to spoil and scrap for a point, and did better than they bargained for.

Souness put Le Tissier on the bench, played one man up and was lucky to find a referee prepared to let niggling fouls go and linesmen happy to enter with his defenders into the conspiracy of offside. That said, Middlesbrough were hopeless in their attempts to solve these problems.

The goal came after a disputed corner. Players lost concentration in their sense of grievance: Monkou's header brought a fine instinctive save from Blackmore, but Blackmore was not the goalkeeper. He was sent off and Magilton, going for the blast technique

with the penalty, bulged the net satisfactorily.

Southampton have found some incipient vertebrate forms amid the primeval slime of their relegation struggle. They will learn from this game more about themselves and about each other. Middlesbrough learnt nothing.

The team is filled with talent and had vibes. Middlesbrough could yet do the traditional double of the candyfloss side, a trip to Wembley and relegation.

Surely it would be more shocking if Robson had not offered to stand down. Only a man not given to gross self-deception could fail to see that four wins in 22 just will not do. And Robson is an honourable man.

Extraordinary as it may seem, his dream continues, with wild, desperate stubbornness. Another day, another foreign star. At least this one is a defender. He is Gianluca Festa, a centre back. He will be signed for Internazionale for £2.7 million if he passes his medical today. Robson hopes to have him signed up in time for the match next weekend against Sheffield Wednesday. Interesting week: tomorrow Middlesbrough face a hearing for their failure to meet their fixture against Blackburn Rovers. They could be punished by a loss of points.

Another of football's eternal mysteries is the question of what a manager actually does. My theory is that his function is the same as that of a fuse in an electrical circuit. Its sole purpose is to be changed when the lights blow up.

Few managers survive such results as Robson has been producing: fewer still survive a vote of confidence as wholehearted as that of Robson's. The mad, brave experiment is at the point of crisis. Still, there are consolations. This could be the finest side the Nationwide League has seen.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): G Walsh — M Cox, S Vickers, D Whyte — C Blackmore, C Hipwell (sub: P Buxton, 70min), G Souness (sub: M Black, 85), R Muntari, C Fleming — Jyrrino, F Ravenhill. SOUTHAMPTON (3-5-1-1): M Taylor — F Bardsley, K Morris, U Newkirk — G Robson (sub: S Charlton, 85), J Magilton, D Hughes, M O'Leary, A Neilson — E Bekovic (sub: M Le Tissier, 70). Referee: G Ashby.

Caught up in the business of stress management

Kevin Keegan resigned as manager of Newcastle United, because he apparently no longer enjoyed the intense pressure the job placed on him. My first reaction to the news was one of shock, my second was that Keegan will not be the last man to go under such circumstances.

Pressure? It's a difficult concept for many people because they don't consider the job Keegan did as stressful, as anything but, the best job in the world. In fact, but to begin to appreciate the pressure he was under, just consider the reaction to his announcement that he was quitting.

The world went mad for a day. Every news programme on television and radio seemed to be crammed with details of the resignation and the newspapers seemed to run special editions on the subject — just as they did when the war ended.

The news completely overshadowed a key speech by Tony Blair, got Richard Branson off the front pages and relegated to a minor spot Tony Blair's, the yachtsman who had been missing for five days. That is how important football is nowadays and how important Keegan's job was.

It is frightening. There were footballers, managers, doctors, psychologists, politicians, every person under the sun, offering an opinion on his resignation. Keegan had become public property, a massive celebrity, not last Wednesday, but from the day he walked in through the door at St James' Park.

Such an intense spotlight is pressure. He had to be careful in every single thing he did and he had to win things. If you don't like it, then you have to get out because there is no hiding. And it is only going to get worse.

Football is trendy. The European championship made the sport sexy and everybody wants a piece of it. Managers and players at the big clubs are under a pres-

STEVE McMANAMAN



on pressure in the modern-day game

sure that just wasn't there even ten years ago. Maybe it is the money, maybe it is the television coverage, maybe it is the newspaper circulation war. Probably it is a combination of them all, but it has created a stress that can be unbearable.

It is not the same level of pressure for a player, but it is there. We are sometimes

'It can only get worse and more will follow Keegan through the door'

treated a bit like pop stars, there is an acute interest in everything we say or do. I suppose I first noticed it when I did an interview for a magazine with Robbie Fowler a couple of years ago.

The guy who interviewed me was very naughty, he took things completely out of context and turned us over to make the article look a bit spicy. The next thing we knew, it was repeated in all the tabloids.

Now, it's a fact of life. Make a comment to anyone and it can end up a controversial remark in the tabloid newspapers. It means a footballer has to be as guarded about the things he says as a politician.

There are many other pres-

ures, too, simply because the sport is so high-profile. Multiply that by about a hundred and you begin to understand why Keegan began to turn his back on it. Not only did he have to win things, he had to run a massive company, handle just about everything at the club.

That is why I believe it can only get worse for managers and more will follow Keegan through the revolving door. With clubs becoming big business propositions, there is so much money at stake. That means even more roles for a manager, even higher stakes and, inevitably, even more pressure.

I have always said that I would like to stay in football after I finish playing, but not as a manager if I had to do everything that managers are forced to cope with. I think there is a strong case to be made for splitting the job up into separate roles for different people.

A manager has to be a financial expert, a PR expert, a coaching expert and an expert in psychology. He also has to build a winning team. Judging by Keegan's reaction, he tried to take all those roles on and couldn't cope. I wouldn't be interested in the financial side, the contracts and fees, I think that must evolve into a role for someone else.

perhaps similar to the model they have on the Continent. If Newcastle had done that, then perhaps Keegan could have avoided some of the pressures and stayed with the club. Mind you, he would still have had to produce a winning team.

I know all about those pressures at the moment. We have been criticised heavily at Liverpool because of our form over Christmas, especially our form at home, and we are still top of the Premiership. It's true, we have not played as well as we would have liked of late, but the time to judge is at the end of the season. We believe we will still get it right and if we don't, believe me, it will not be for want of desire.

Caretaker is cleaning up Blackburn act

Blackburn Rovers 4
Coventry City 0

By Peter Ball

SO WHO needs Sven Goran Eriksson? On Saturday Blackburn demolished Coventry City, their fourth win in five games extending their run since Tony Parkes took over as caretaker manager to two defeats in 12 matches — and one of those came in his first game.

"Sven Eriksson is too far ahead, we're not even thinking about him," Henning Berg, the Blackburn defender, said. "Tony Parkes is the manager, and he's done a brilliant job. He says the right things, he gets us motivated, he keeps it simple, and there aren't many team talks."

It is not just the team's record at present, but the way Parkes has got them playing. Blackburn may have made the most inspired internal promotion since Bob Paisley replaced Bill Shankly at Anfield.

On Saturday, even allowing for Coventry's total ineptitude, they played better football than at any time since the arrival of Alan Shearer at Ewood Park. Shearer's presence led them to hit the ball to him long and early. Now they are passing the ball again, with Sherwood looking like the player who briefly got into the England squad. Under Parkes, Blackburn look more like a championship team than the team that won the championship.

Parkes, of course, also fulfils the Napoleonic dictum of being lucky. He took over as Wilcox, Sutton and Le Saux began to recover full fitness, restoring the side's balance down the left and welcoming back a striker with presence and a taste for goals.

All three made important contributions on Saturday. Between them, Le Saux and Wilcox provided the crosses for the first three goals, and they all took part in the move that ended in a goal for Davis with his first two touches of the match after coming on as a substitute.

Shearer's departure may have thrown the team into disarray at the start of the season, but Sutton is thriving in his absence. His two goals

against Coventry, which took his total this season to ten, were a fitting reward for his performance. Freed from Shearer's dominating presence, he now looks the fine, all-round leader of the attack he was at Norwich City. His £5 million transfer fee looks a bargain.

Coventry, though, could hardly have provided easier opposition. They were so poor even before Dublin's second sending-off in successive matches, for a frightful lunge at Berg, reduced them to ten men, that Gordon Strachan, the manager, made no attempt to use that as an excuse. "We didn't do it right," Strachan said. "The sending-off didn't help, but I've got bigger overall problems than that. I'm more worried about the start of the game. Even before Dion was sent off, we were heading for defeat. We weren't able to keep the ball. We were second to everything and did not get going at all."

Strachan was also, perhaps, caught out tactically. With Whelan suspended and aware that Blackburn had played with Sutton on his own up front, Strachan moved Dublin to his favoured centre forward position and played with two central defenders.

Parkes won the tactical battle. Gallacher, who scored the second goal with a crashing shot, and Wilcox quickly pushed up to become out-and-out wingers. But, as Strachan said: "It doesn't matter what formation you play if you can't pass the ball to one another, and lack commitment."

Under their caretaker manager, Blackburn have both — and tactical nous, too. "To score four goals against Coventry City and to jump above them was quite satisfactory," Parkes said. "Ten men can make it very difficult for you, but we coped with it very well. Although we played well, our performance at Everton is still our best display of the season so far. It's another win and another three points in our fight to stay in the division."

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-3-1-1): T Flowers — J Kinnear, H Berg, G Hendry, G Le Saux — K Gallacher (sub: G Fenton, 85), G Pearson, L Bowmen, J Wilcox — C Sutton. COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrzewiec — P Teller, R Shaw, L Dean, G Bordon — J Salsbery (sub: F Jones, 45), G McKenna, A Richardson, P Williams — D Huxford, D Duggan. Referee: P Dunlop.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

'I want to manage Liverpool'

John Barnes on following Roy Evans

'Everything I've done since leaving United has been to prove Alex Ferguson wrong'

Paul McGrath gets even

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Referee: J. Taylor

BLACKBURN (3) 4 **COVENTRY** (0) 0
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St. Pauls 0-0 (Pen) 15
Referee: P. D. Dunn



Gayle scored for Wimbledon

W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	1	0	1	0	3
2	1	0	1	0	3
3	1	0	1	0	3
4	1	0	1	0	3
5	1	0	1	0	3
6	1	0	1	0	3
7	1	0	1	0	3
8	1	0	1	0	3
9	1	0	1	0	3
10	1	0	1	0	3
11	1	0	1	0	3
12	1	0	1	0	3
13	1	0	1	0	3
14	1	0	1	0	3
15	1	0	1	0	3
16	1	0	1	0	3
17	1	0	1	0	3
18	1	0	1	0	3
19	1	0	1	0	3
20	1	0	1	0	3



Abel Balbo, of Roma, tries to evade tackle by Massimiliano Allegri, of Perugia, during their Italian League match. Roma won 4-1 with Balbo scoring twice

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

TOMORROW
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

THURSDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

FRIDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

SATURDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

SUNDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

MONDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

TUESDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

THURSDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

FRIDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

SATURDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

SUNDAY
Football: 12.30pm
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MONDAY
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SUNDAY
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MONDAY
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Basketball: 7.30pm

TUESDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY
Football: 12.30pm
Basketball: 7.30pm

PREMIERSHIP

DISCIPLINARY points and subsequent suspensions are starting to become key issues for FA Carling Premiership managers (Liam Desborough writes). The table below shows the number of disciplinary cases and the average number of cards per match issued to each team.

Two clubs with differing fortunes are Middlesbrough, with the worst record, and Arsenal, with the third worst. As the season drags on, Boro's indiscipline will hinder their attempts to clear the relegation zone while suspensions to Arsenal's key players are already denting their title ambitions.

Aside from their impressive league form,

Greening is proving priceless to Gloucester escape bid

London Irish 20
Gloucester 21

By JOHN HOPKINS

INCH by struggling inch, Gloucester are heaving themselves out of the mire at the bottom of the Courage Clubs Championship first division. The way they play is as functional and unattractive as the city's hospital, but there is a glimmer of hope.

Their courageous climb towards safety is all the more to be admired because they are working their way out of trouble and not buying their way out.

This victory represented more than two points, since it was against one of the other struggling clubs in the first division and since it came at the same time as Bristol lost again. It might be said to be worth four or even six points.

London Irish seem doomed and it was typical of what they perceive to be misfortune that, though two of their players crossed Gloucester's line, neither was credited with scoring a try. And now they are losing Rob Henderson, the centre, who announced that this would be his last game for the exiles before he moves to Wasps.

London Irish are likely to demand a fee of around £20,000. Gloucester are now in eighth place with ten points, four clear of West Hartlepool, and have one match in hand over three of the four teams below them. If they continue to demonstrate as much doggedness as this, when they twice regained the lead in the second half, then they should be safe, whether four or two clubs are relegated.

The danger for Gloucester would be if either Mark Mapletoft and Phil Greening were badly injured, because they are two players of high quality. Mapletoft's elbow injury is not serious. His kicking and generalship from stand-off half was effective against enthusiastic but inept opposition, and Greening's dynamism in the loose was never more noticeable than in the way he barged past Gabriel Fulcher to create a gap for Peter Glanville to go through and score.

To say that Fulcher was brushed aside would be unfair, but the Irishman was certainly removed from Greening's path with a degree of urgency and efficiency. Greening is a tallisman for Gloucester. He lives closer to Kingsholm than any other player and, so long as he remains at the club, then other good players may be attracted, too. However, large sums of money are allegedly being offered to him to move elsewhere, though some of this talk is possibly being inflated to increase his value in the marketplace.

"Phil has got to play more club rugby, more rugby at the top level, to improve," Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of coaching, said. "He has a lot to do to cope with being a superstar in Gloucester and he is just about keeping his feet on the ground. The lads are helping. We were talking about how to raise money for a pre-season tour and they all said that if we sold Phil we would be able to afford to go somewhere nice."

This gallows humour only partly conceals the serious fact that Gloucester have little money and are, therefore, not only not interested but actually fed up with the overseas players who are touting themselves at the moment. "We're getting faxes every day and the latest is Shane Howarth, the New Zealand full back," Hill said. "He wants £100,000 or more. The money situation is crazy. We will hold out against it as long as we can."

SCORERS: London Irish: Try: O Shea. Penalty goals: Henderson (1). Gloucester: Try: Greening. Penalty goals: Mapletoft (2). Dropped goal: Mapletoft (1).

LONDON IRISH: C O Shea, J Bishop, R Henderson, B Sims, N Woods, G Humphreys, T Thompson, J Phillips, R Vellam, S Haden, P O Connell, S Rucker, J Davidson, K Davidson, B Walsh. Gloucester: C Gilling, M Peters, D Adams, M Roberts, M Lloyd, M Mapletoft, S Brown, W P Greening, A Deacon, P Edwards, R Taylor, D Sims, N Carter, S Gwynne. Gloucester replaced by P Hill (25).

Referee: G Turner (Bristol)

RUGBY UNION: STAPLES DEALS SUBSTANTIAL BLOW TO CHAMPIONS' HOPES OF RETAINING TITLE



Ojomoh, the Bath No 8, rises above a steaming lineout, but it was the Harlequins forwards who finished on top at the Stoop on Saturday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Harlequins push Bath to the periphery

Harlequins 22
Bath 6

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE dark horses rampaging around the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship will ensure that this season's competition will go down to the wire, but will Bath be there at the final run-in? No team has carried off the league title after losing four times, as the 1996 champions have now done, but never has the competition been so intense.

Professionalism has permitted those clubs who can afford it to buy in talent, as Harlequins have done with Thierry Lacroix, and by doing so change the shape of their season. Whereas before the perennial combatants were Bath and Leicester, now the three London clubs, Sale and Northampton have joined the queue of those who may win, and will certainly influence, the league title.

In 1996 Bath drew one league match and lost twice en route to the title, as did Leicester the year before. In 1994, the year home-and-away league fixtures were introduced, Bath lost only once. Now, Wasps lead the table having lost twice and knowing they have still to visit Leicester, Harlequins and Saracens while Har-

lequins may ponder whether they would have lost three times had Lacroix arrived before this month.

Almost as significant as Lacroix's goalkicking at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Saturday was the obvious hunger of the entire team: their season buoyed by the defeat of Wasps a week earlier, they hunted in numbers, hounding opponents whom they had never beaten in ten seasons of league rugby. "That was probably our best defensive performance of the season," Dick Best, director of rugby at the Stoop, said.

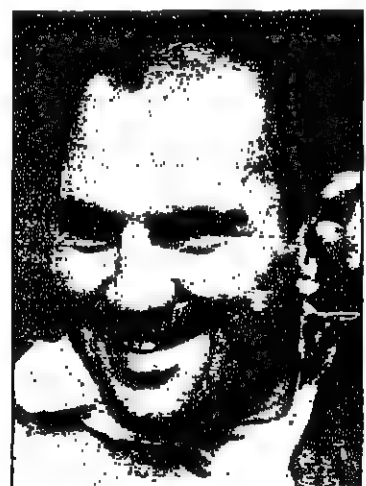
Best says it would be foolhardy to discount Bath but there appears to be a sea change in the Georgian city, induced partly by the growing pains of professional management, partly by the dilution of the Bath culture that hinged on massive family pride and self-confidence — though John Hall, their director of rugby, denies that — and partly through a lack of direction on the field.

"It was a game we could and should have won," Hall said. "If you take the possession we had, and the territory, we were probably way ahead. We had probably six or seven [try-scoring] opportunities and we should have nailed at least three of them." But missed passes, ball lost in the tackle, a strange lack of belief haunted the Bath game.

Harlequins, however, have revived

their season within eight days: run-away leaders of the league initially, they then ran into brick walls against Sale, Leicester and, most notably, Bath at the Recreation Ground where a beautifully-played first half counted for nothing against the brilliance of Bath's second half. On a greasy surface at the Stoop, though, Bath could conjure nothing of that magic and Jim Staples could draw particular satisfaction from the outcome.

An accidental collision with Adedayo Adebayo broke his jaw in



Lacroix: considerable influence

last month's meeting; only last Tuesday was the full back told the healing process was complete. So, to be the player who scored the only try of the match, in the final minute, represented a triumph. Given that the Ireland selectors were picking him for next weekend's A international with France at more or less the same time, the recovery was doubly complete.

However, in front of Staples, the Harlequins back line seldom functioned efficiently; training time had been limited by the bad weather. Lacroix was hindered by an ankle injury and it was only the second occasion on which Will Carling and Robbie Paul had played together. It will also be the last, since Paul and Gary Connolly return to their rugby league contracts, as do Jason Robinson and Henry Paul from Bath.

That, too, will have a disruptive effect since Robinson, at the behest of Brian Ashton, the former coach, had become an integral part of Bath's wide attacking movements while Connolly's strength and vision added considerably to the Harlequins' midfield. Both clubs claim their approach off the field provided instant role models for a fledgling professional sport but now Harlequins, in particular, must re-establish a midfield including such players as Peter Mensah and Glenn Harrison, though they will remember that

much of Lacroix's rugby has been played there.

The Frenchman's bad leg did not stop him kicking two penalty goals in each half, though his kicking out of hand was mixed — diagonals to make the Bath back three turn were done well, line kicking less well, though in that respect he and Mike Catt made a pair. Catt, returning after a chest injury, made a less-than-convincing defence of his England position and only Guscott and Callard offered the cutting edge that Bath needed.

Yet only in the last seven minutes did Harlequins claim the game. Llewellyn worked his way over from a lineout but was judged not to have grounded the ball. From the scrum, though, Lacroix shuffled over a dropped goal that put the home side nine points clear. Then another Frenchman, Laurent Cabannes, burst onto a Bath lineout and made 30 metres before Wood, inevitably, provided support, the backs chimed in and Staples squeezed over.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Try: Staples. Conversion: Lacroix. Penalty goals: Lacroix (4). Dropped goal: Lacroix. Bath: Penalty goals: Callard (2). HANS BOLLEN: J Staples, D O'Leary, W Carling, R Paul, D Luger, T Lacroix, H Hennes, L Bénédict, M Wood, J Llewellyn, W Dawson, Glyn Llewellyn, M Wesson, R Jenkins, L Cabannes. BATH: J Callard, J Staphorova, P de Glanville, J Guscott, J Robinson, M Catt, A Nock, D Hilton, Mervast, V Jupp, E Peters, M Wong, N Redman, Thomas, S Ojomoh, De Glanville temporarily replaced by R Butler (56-60min). Referee: S Percy (Yorkshire)

High-flying Wasps stung by departure of Tuigamala

Bristol 18
Wasps 41

By BRYAN STILES

VAVAIGA TUIGAMALA professes to have enjoyed playing rugby union for years but acknowledges that, in this professional age, it comes down to honouring contracts rather than responding to the wishes of the heart.

It is a sentiment that Nigel Melville, the director of rugby at Wasps, hopes will help his club's efforts this week to secure Tuigamala's services for another stint.

The former All Black is one of the top league players who entered short-term contracts with English rugby union clubs this season, and who are now returning to the rugby league fold for the start of their new campaign.

Even though he has scored only four tries (two of them in this decisive Courage Clubs Championship victory) that carried Wasps to the head of the first division table, he has been a charismatic figure who has brought in the crowds both on and off the pitch — it has often required a cluster of players to bring him down when he has embarked on a

charging burst down the middle, opening gaps for teammates to exploit.

"This was his last game for us today, but we have been in negotiation with his club, Wigan, for his services again," Melville said. "There have been so many options on the table. We have been looking at things like three-year, one-year and shorter-term options, but the negotiations are complex. Hopefully, we will learn something this week."

Tuigamala, who is in the middle of a four-year contract with Wigan, has played a key role in Wasps' surge to the top. He may have scored only four tries, but he has tremendous presence as a winger or a centre," Melville said.

His two tries against Bristol were executed with precision, the second a gem of a lesson on how to split a defence with a dummy and a switch of direction through the midfield from 25 metres out.

It was the last of the six tries inflicted on Bristol by Wasps who, despite the margin of their victory, did not produce the kind of power rugby expected from league leaders. But Bristol, whose record against Wasps in the league now reads played 14, won 0, drawn 1, lost 13, were never in

with a shout, apart from in a five-minute phase just before the interval. They were camped on the Wasps line and looked likely to score until Wasps engineered a breakout that brought a runaway try for Roiser. It was a heartbreaking 14-point turnover for struggling Bristol. It was the kind of luck that often seems to dog relegation-threatened teams such as them.

Wasps had built a 23-10 lead by the interval through tries by Reed, Greenstock and Roiser. Bristol replied with a try by Denney and a conversion and penalty by Burke, who also contributed a try and a penalty after the interval. Tuigamala (2) and Sheasby scored tries for Wasps in the second half and Reed's penalty brought his match total from kicks to 11 points.

SCORERS: Bristol: Try: Denney. Bath: Conversion: Burke. Penalty goals: Burke (2). Wasps: Try: Tuigamala (2). Reed, Greenstock, Roiser, Sheasby. Conversion: Reed (1). Penalty goal: Reed. BRISTOL: P Hill, D Tait, S Morris, M Denney, B Ebdon, P Burke, R Jordan, A Sharp, M Regan, D Hynes, M Carty, P Adams, C Sago, C Conway, E Roiser. Denney replaced by K Haggis (50min). WASPS: G Reed, J Luger, M Greenstock, V Tuigamala, S Roiser, A King, A Greenstock, D Hilton, D Mather, M Gould, J Callard, D O'Leary, A Reed, C Sheasby, M Sheasby. O'Leary replaced by R Butler (70). Gould replaced by J Callard (75). Mather replaced by J Wood (77). Mather replaced by K Durr (78). Referee: A Score (Stroud) (Saracens)

All hands to the pump as West fight for survival

West Hartlepool 24
Orrell 8

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

MIST pressed down on Tees-side and obliterated the industrial horizon of Middlesbrough. The only ray of sunshine on Saturday was at Brierton Lane itself, where West Hartlepool reinforced their belief that relegation from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship is not the foregone conclusion that it appears to be for Orrell.

On Saturday, West toiled and scrapped their way to a second successive league victory — a feat they last achieved in narrowly avoiding the drop two seasons ago — against opponents who miserably await their fate. West visit Gloucester on Saturday, where they must end a sequence of 14 successive away league defeats if they are to give real impetus to their campaign to stay up.

Like Orrell, West are in financial trouble. They are existing on crowds barely in excess of 1,500, and saw their debts pile up recently when Philip Yull, their main sponsor, withdrew substantial re-

sources. Since then, Frank Gibson has been co-opted back onto the management board, 18 months after he was ousted, and all hands are at the pump in an effort to keep the club in the top flight.

Liam Bodham again rose to the cause. The teenager took his first league try on his second appearance well in a flourishing centre partnership with the combative Jamie Connolly. The New Zealander mainly owed the chances he had to carve up the Orrell midfield to the rejuvenated John Stabler at stand-off half.

In the home defeat of West, Orrell's only league points, a month before, Matthew McCarthy looked to have resolved the Lancashire side's slip-side half problem. The flip side on Saturday was a display devoid of any tactical awareness.

Orrell's forwards were so ponderous in arriving at the breakdown, whereas the splendidly competitive West back row of Morgan, Jones and Earnshaw wreaked havoc off the scrum and in the rucks.

This created opportunities even when the home side were under pressure. The fact that Orrell were spent, after they conceded Earnshaw's first score mid-

way through the first half, was hardly helped by Taberner hobbling early on and Naylor looking palpably unfit on his return after three months. Hitchmough should have been on far sooner than the 54th minute. His adventure earned Orrell their try, but it also dug the visitors a deeper hole than the one they were already in.

When Harvey chipped into space, Hitchmough looked to swoop. He misread the bounce, and instead of clearing the danger, Stabler seized the ball and the veteran seized the legs to bowl out a scoring pass to Earnshaw. This try was preceded by a far worse indignity for the Orrell pack, which was shoved off its scrum on its own line. Harvey, a live wire at scrum half, pounced for the score.

SCORERS: West Hartlepool: Try: Earnshaw (2). Bodham, Harvey. Conversion: Stabler (2). Orrell: Try: Hitchmough. Penalty goal: McCarthy. WEST HARTLEPOOL: M Shaw, M Wood, L Bodham, J Connolly, S John, J Stabler, J Harvey, W de Jongh, S Whitfield, P Whitfield, J Jones, C Murphy, K Moseley, A Earnshaw, I Morgan, Whitfield replaced by A Pascoe (60min). Referee: J Lacey (17)

ORRELL: S Taberner, J Naylor, D Lyon, I Tuigamala, N Hogg, M McCarthy, S Cook, M Worsley, A Hogg, S Turner, A Earnshaw, C Gifford, P Reed, R Hogg, P Angelos. Taberner replaced by R Hitchmough (53). Reed replaced by C Gifford (43). Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

Beal's dash helps to put skids under Leicester

Northampton 22
Leicester 19

By PETER BILLS

TOO much should not be read into any individual result, a view with which Northampton's respected director of rugby, Ian McGeechan, readily concurred after this tenacious Midlands derby had been shaded by his team.

McGeechan, delighted at having claimed the prized scalp of the Heineken Cup finalists, acknowledged news of Bath's defeat at Harlequins but insisted: "There are going to be a lot of significant results yet. The Courage league title will be won with as many as four or five defeats because the first division now is becoming very competitive. I don't count ourselves as out of the running. Every game is up for grabs and with the top group being so competitive, a lot of games will be settled by a single score."

Just like this one in fact, a "cracking contest" in the words of Fran Cotton, the British Isles manager, which was turned by an outstanding piece of attacking play from Nick Beal, the Northampton full back.

A match which had been nip and tuck throughout, littered with too many basic mistakes, but a great battle for all that was turned around by Beal. Rob Liley's poorly directed kick out of defence 14 minutes into the second half offered Beal the loose-phase ball upon which he thrives.

Beal counter-attacked hard and straight upfield, beating four men on an arcing run towards the left where he found Gregor Townsend, who had handled woefully all day but now had read the situation as if from a book. The pace of the attack had cut Leicester open although Townsend only just made it

Full results and league tables Page 34

into the corner before Austin Healey's corner-flagging tackle. Grayson's conversion levelled the score and Leicester's touch was never as sure thereafter. Grayson's fourth penalty quickly made it 19-16. John Liley's third 19-19 before Grayson drilled a 40-metre penalty attempt in off an upright for an important win.

The fine tuning in Leicester's game, impressive against Toulouse the previous week, was apparent for only a 15-minute spell in the first half. In that time they scored one try. Back's first, but failed to finish three or four other opportunities. An 11-6 Leicester lead at half-time was ridiculous, given their supremacy.

But Northampton earned their reward by defending doggedly. In front of a galaxy of watching officials, including Les Cusworth, Don Ruthenford and Cotton, of England, and Jim Telfer, of Scotland, few did better than Chandler, the Northampton lock, who had a battle royal with Martin Johnson at the lineouts and emerged with a 15-9 advantage.

Leicester also suffered on the penalty count, 15-10, and Dwyer was strongly critical of Chris White's interpretations. "He got a lot of things wrong and the game deserved a better referee than it had," Harsh words but, in fairness, Dwyer did not hide the fact that it was Leicester's failings that had cost them victory. "We made a lot of chances but didn't convert them and we gave away too many penalties. The last-minute penalty the referee did not get wrong."

SCORERS: Northampton: Try: Townsend. Conversion: Grayson. Penalty goals: Grayson (3). Leicester: Try: Back (2). Penalty goals: J Liley (3). NORTHAMPTON: N Beal, J Bell, G Townsend, M Allen, H Thornicroft, R Grayson, B Taylor, M Volland, A Clarke, G Walsh, S Tanaka, J Chandler, J Phillips, A Pounter, I Fisher. Talsup replaced by J Cassell (70min). LEICESTER: J Liley, S Mackenzie, W Greenwood, S Potter, R Underwood, R Liley, A Healey, G Rowntree, D West, D Gerford, W Johnson, M Johnson, M Poole, N Back, D Richards. Haden replaced by J Stoney (27min). Referee: C White (Gloucestershire)

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مكتبة من الأصل

RUGBY UNION

By GERALD DAVIES

•

ANDREW BEDINGTON | SPORT

men of Aspen, 79).

Blanco celebrates his decisive score in the French victory over Australia at the 1987 World Cup. Photograph: Andrew Redington / Allsport

In 1987, in Sydney, David Hands, rugby correspondent, saw a defining moment in the development of the professional game

This was the World Cup that would be contested between New Zealand and Australia; theirs was the initiative that had persuaded the fuddy-duddy British to take part, they were the hosts and, with South Africa absent for political reasons, the northern hemisphere had no chance of upsetting destiny. Given that Australia had won a series in New Zealand the previous year moreover, there was

Now they had to play France for the privilege of reaching the final. Public expectation, home advantage, the perceived French inability to produce their best form away from home — everything was on their side.

But the clouds were gathering: neither Brett Papworth, the elusive centre, nor the giant Bill Campbell, in the second row, lasted beyond the first quarter because of medial ligament damage. Moreover, Campbell's replacement, the young Troy Oaker,

TOMORROW

**John Hopkins recalls
a memorable roar
by the British Lions**

Again the ruck was set and Lagisquet sent the prop, Jean-Pierre Garuet, ploughing into the short side with Laurent Rodriguez at his heels. The burly Dax No 8 found Denis Charvet in support and, when the centre was stopped, Pierre

We did not know it then but a truly great Australia team had come to the end. Slack became a casualty, and so did Jones later in the year. For France, it was their finest hour of the tournament — it was their final. A week later, they went to Auckland and were demolished 39-9 by New Zealand. There was nothing left in the tank.

Evans, the Wales wing, is brought down by Hightower as he tries to burst through

BY DAVID HANDS

"When I first spoke to Mike I found we were very much on the same wavelength and, while I don't know what his formal coaching qualifications are, he has, to my mind, the

IRELAND: C M P O'Shea (London Irish), J A Topping (Ballymore), J C Ball (Northampton), M E Field (Milton), J Croftly (Garnemore), E P Ebdow (Andover), N A Hogan (Newcastle), K G M Wood (Poppleton), J J O'Shea (Newcastle), J Woodhouse (captain), P S Wallace (Seacroft), D S Corkery (Ginston), P S Johnne (Sancroft), J W Davidson (London Irish), W D McBride (Malton), E R Miller (London Irish), R J Gifford (McQuillan), J J O'Shea (captain), J A Surlee (Bristol), S C McGee (Rangers), G M Fischer (London Irish), G F Huplin (London Irish), A H Clarke (Northampton).

CHAMPIONSHIP

IRELAND *A* to *Z* Francis A. Dornbrook, January 17; J. Staples (Hartford); D. Hickey (St. Mary's College); B. Conley (Blackrock College); K. Kinnane (Garryowen); R. Wallace (Saracens); D. Humphreys (London Irish); B. O'Meara (York Constitution); P. Folan (Blackrock College); N. McDermott (London Irish); A. McKenna (London Irish); *F* Foley (Saracens); M. Galloway (Shannon); B. Cusack (Bath); A. Healey (Shannon); B. Cronin (Garryowen); Representatives: S. Mason (Richmond); E. Walsh (York Constitution); A. Hinchey (Pontefract); S. Leahy (Garryowen); H. Hurley (Hemel); R. Needles (Newcastle).

No 8. Miller, the Leicester back-row forward, lasted only half an hour during his international debut at open-side flanker against Italy before an ankle injury forced him off. Now his driving play from the scrum and mobility about the field have forced the selectors to dispense with Anthony Foley and bring back the experienced Denis McBride on the flank.

"I would have liked to tell you that the long-running saga between the clubs and the RFU has come to an end," Barwell said. "But, sadly, that is not the case. The problem seems to be that we sit down and agree things and then ask the RFU lawyers to draw up documents that encapsulate what we have agreed ... Again, if [the legal paperwork] in no way reflects what the clubs agreed at Leicester.

"If things are not sorted out by the end of January then, frankly, the five nations' is under threat." The championship begins on Saturday.

Melrose 20

The champions are on course for a sixth title in eight years after a hard-fought victory over a determined Boroughmuir, a club which beat them twice last season and should really have done

Kevin Allan, playing against his former club, took one put-in against the heat and Boroughmuir ruled the lineup until the final ten minutes, when Melrose belatedly moved Robbie Brown to jump at the front in place of the ineffectual Stewart Campbell. In his first league game since joining from Dundee, Campbell, understandably, looked rusty after recovering from a knee injury.

The visitors made the perfect start and scored in the first minute. Wyllie launched a up-and-under, an effective tactic given the weather, but

SCORES: Parker (5) Toni Monnett (6)
 Kelly goals: Parker (6) Boroughmurf; Tri-
 Laird, Nipatriack, Reid. Conversion
 Reekie (2).

MELROSE: A Shepherd; G Parker,
 Nichol, D Bean, M Monnett; C Chalmers,
 Thorne; M Ross, S Brotherton, P Wright,
 Donnan, R Brown, S Campbell, S Ashwin.
 Hogg. Russ replaced by M Browne (B) M
 Monnett replaced by D Stish (6) Reid
 replaced by A Clerk (75).

BOROUGHMURF: S Reekie, C Finns,
 Reid, S Unwin, A McLean, D Wylie,
 G MacCallum, G Peck, S Brown, S
 Caird, D Burns, P Jones, R K
 Nipatriack, S Reid. Jennings replaced by
 MacCallum (75) Finns replaced by S Pe
 (75).

RAINOW: K McCarty (Injury)

TENNIS: BRITISH NO 1 PROVES HE HAS THE MAKINGS OF A CHAMPION ON EVE OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Henman's rapid climb clears way for ultimate ascent

By DAVID MILLER

IT IS a shame that Fred Perry, one of Britain's sporting legends of the past, is no longer with us. He would have loved to share the elation at the prominence of Tim Henman, the young British player who may be about to become the first to fill Perry's long empty shoes.

Henman's first title on the Association of Tennis Professionals Tour, the Sydney International, achieved on Saturday with a straight-sets victory over Carlos Moya, of Spain, suggested that any question regarding a first grand-slam title for the 22-year-old from Oxford is not whether but when.

Good fortune shone on Henman yesterday when Mark Philippoussis, the big Greek-Australian with a service even more formidable than Henman's own improved delivery, was obliged to withdraw from their scheduled first-round encounter in the Australian Open, starting today, because of an arm injury.

Philippoussis's replacement is a lucky loser in the qualifying, Andre Pavel, of Romania, who is ranked No 135 in the world. This should provide Henman with an easy passage to the second round and some opportunity further to adjust his metabolism to the rapid transition through eight time

zones from the Middle East last week.

I am not suggesting that Henman is about to win the Australian Open, or the Wimbledon title. Such a pinnacle may still be two or three years away. He has developed slowly, as did, for example, the similarly equable Sebastian Coe in athletics back in the late Seventies.

Yet in the space of two galloping weeks, by reaching his first final, in Qatar, and winning in Sydney, Henman has leapt, as it were, from the substitutes' bench to the centre of the pitch, raising his ranking in two weeks from No 20 on January 1 to No 14, an elevated position last occupied by Mark Cox.

Cox had been the last British player to win the men's singles title in a tournament of comparable class, at Stockholm in November 1976. The players Cox beat included Eddie Dibbs, Wojtek Fibak, Jimmy Connors and Manuel Orantes, who were all among the ten leading prize-money winners that year.

While Britain wallows in admiration on a wider front for the failed ambitions of those Jules Verne-style adventurers, Bullimore, Branson and Fienness, Henman is progressing more steadily, like a mountaineer, camp by ascending camp.

Seeds fall by wayside

KENNETH CARLSEN and Jonas Bjorkman meet in an all-Scandinavian final at the rain-hit New Zealand Open in Auckland today.

In the semi-finals yesterday, Carlsen, of Denmark, beat the defending champion Jiri Novak, of the Czech Republic, 7-6, 6-4 and Bjorkman, of Sweden, disposed of Marcos Ondruska, of South Africa, 6-1, 6-1.

It is the first time that two unseeded players have made the final of the Auckland tournament, and the match will also see at least one

player break new ground, as neither has won a top-level tournament. It will be Bjorkman's second final and Carlsen's third.

The last surviving seed, Hernan Gurny, of Argentina, the No 5 seed, was beaten 6-4, 7-6 by Carlsen in the quarter-finals.

Tom Spinks, of Norfolk, who surprised the top seed, Nick Pietrangeli, in the semi-final of the Bass-Reebok Tour event at Telford, won the tournament on Saturday with a 7-6, 3-6, 7-6 victory over Paul Hand, of Berkshire.

In no time at all he has exhausted his three rational ambitions for this year: his first final, his first title and a place in the top 20. He has calmly and promptly revised those objectives.

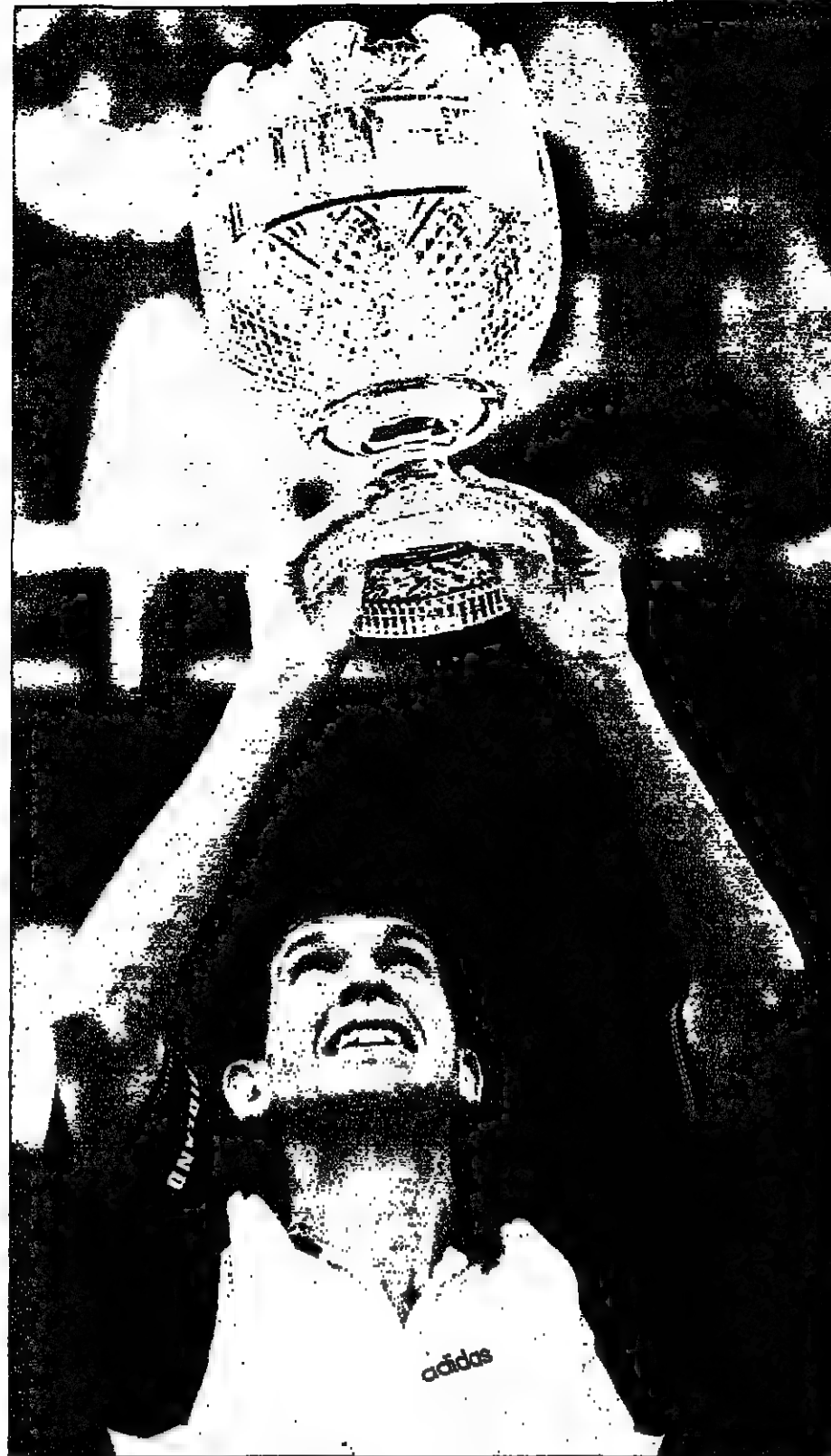
"I like to set myself tasks," he said before departing from Sydney for Melbourne and the first grand-slam tournament of the year, "and now I want to break into the top ten and do well in the grand slams." Modesty does not desert him. He did well enough, by traditional British standards, in the grand-slam events last year, with a quarter-final place at Wimbledon and the last 16 in the US Open in New York.

He and David Felgate, his perceptive coach, keep a firm grip on reality. Together they have rapidly advanced his service potential and fitness level during the all-too-brief winter respite, yet Felgate remains as level-headed as his young charge. "For the future, a top-ten place is the obvious goal," Felgate said yesterday. "But more important is his year-end ranking. There is still a lot of work to be done."

Should Henman surpass Mike Sangster, Roger Taylor, Cox and John Lloyd, the four players who came nearest to wearing Perry's mantle, he will have done so with a resolution as steely, if not more so, than Perry with his memorable three consecutive Wimbledon titles in the Thirties.

In Perry's day, the stage was commanded by a relatively small number of supremely gifted amateurs. Perry, having first made his mark as a table tennis champion, reached the top in tennis by unrelenting professionalism with a small "p". He was helped by the coaching of Dan Maskell, who would thread a racket handle through the net, protruding just above the tape on one or other flank, until Perry could strike it almost at will. Henman's forehead is occasionally reaching this quality.

Yet in Henman's era, while



Henman holds the trophy aloft after securing his breakthrough victory in Sydney

the game still has its superstars, such as Sampras and Becker, it has become more like the coalface: work-ethic is all, competition is intensely tight throughout the top 50, mental maturity has never been so essential. Henman is revealing that he possesses this.

When I saw him beat Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, who is seeded eighth in Melbourne, in the relative backwater of the Czech indoor championship at Ostrava in the autumn, I sensed that Henman has the inner tenacity for the highest deeds. This was not proved by the

Wimbledon victory over Kafelnikov last year, the sort of home-ground fortune that can be a one-off achievement. Now we know that Henman genuinely has the makings of a champion, even if it still takes some time for him to consolidate his position and potential.

Counting the cost to sport of freeze-up

THE fickle British weather has taken its toll on the sporting programme over the past few weeks, reducing the traditional holiday football and racing programmes to rubble. The matches that have survived have often become a comedy of errors with players unable to keep their feet on the icy pitches. The press conference rooms are, meanwhile, filled with the wintry sight of losing managers blaming the cold for their team's inept performance.

Racing has been particularly hard-hit by this winter's big freeze, losing 23 meetings over the Christmas period. The cancellations have cost the sport several million pounds in lost revenue — money that is not easily recouped later in the season. The Boxing Day racing programme, in particular, attracts many casual first-time racegoers who may develop a taste for the sport from this annual outing but are less likely to make a trip to the races at other times of the year. Rearranged meetings on the country's three all-weather tracks, which cannot host jump meetings, are a poor substitute for all but the most committed racegoer.

It is not just the immediate cost of lost gates and corporate hospitality receipts that has hurt racing. Repeated cancellations also have an impact on sponsorship deals. The Welsh National, for example, has been lost to the weather three years running and there are growing fears that Coral may reduce or even withdraw its sponsorship from the race.

Canceled meetings are also particularly bad news for the jockeys and trainers. Jockeys can face genuine hardship as most are paid per mount rather than through a fixed salary. Boxing Day is traditionally a bumper pay-day for jockeys who can pick up six mounts at around £75 a ride — as well as the bonus prize-money. Trainers meanwhile, do at least still receive their retainer for the horses but lose out on their cut of the prize-money which tops up their income. The trainers also face the headache that cancelled races can make it difficult to prepare the horses properly for big events such as Cheltenham in March.

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



For football, postponed is an equally expensive business. David Sullivan, the Birmingham City chairman, estimates that lost fixtures over Christmas cost his club around £150,000. Replayed fixtures soften some of the blow but, in general, midweek matches mean smaller gates and less sponsorship money and shop takings. Postponements also bring extra costs such as dumping unused programmes that have been printed well ahead of the games. Birmingham also suffered because the club lost £60,000 in television money when their game against Tranmere Rovers was postponed.

For the smaller clubs, lost matches can cause serious financial trouble. The Christmas gates are among the largest of the season, when casual supporters rub shoulders with regulars. The absence of a regular income can cause cash-strapped clubs real problems as they struggle to continue paying their staff — leaving them reliant on the charity of their already long-suffering banks.

Inevitably, the cold snap has resurrected pleas for a winter break, which is heavily favoured by managers and players keen to recharge their batteries over Christmas. But the pernicious British weather is just as prone to a cold snap in March as in late December, while the directors are less than keen to see their club's income disappear halfway through the season.

The alternative, such as undersoil heating, is beyond the wallet of all but the biggest clubs — costing around £150,000 to install and £1,000 a day to use. For the time being, the majority of British sport is going to remain vulnerable to the whims of our weather.

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Urgent need for Wilkinson to take FA back to school



Wilkinson: well qualified

If Howard Wilkinson, the new technical director of the Football Association, is to become the unifying factor between the amateur base of the game and England's desire to regain respect at the highest professional level, he must, sooner rather than later, go back to school — where he briefly taught physical education.

When he accepted the post at Lancaster Gate a week ago, he identified this priority: "The future of football is with the kids, and that is where I'll be spending most of my time. Teaching is the most important profession in the country, and I hope that, despite the cynicism that surrounds coaching, I can be an agent for change."

Wilkinson is in a minority of one, as a man who holds a

degree in physical education, and has managed a club, Leeds United, to the FA Carling Premiership title. Yet, at his inauguration last week, there was one empty chair... no representative of the English Schools FA.

Wilkinson said this was because Malcolm Berry, the chief executive of ESFA, was recuperating after a replacement hip operation. Berry himself hankers for a call from Lancaster Gate, for some sign that those who rule the game are truly prepared for integration. Moreover, John Morton, the chairman of ESFA, points out that no invitation to the schools was ever made.

The chasm between schools football and the ruling power will have to be bridged by Wilkinson. Both Berry and Morton, who is a qualified FA

Rob Hughes assesses the priorities for the technical director appointed last week

coach, and has been a PE teacher for 27 years, insist that they are willing to meet Wilkinson at any time, almost any place, the hip permitting.

The new FA technical director, his priority being to put the best coaches in touch with the best talents at the earliest appropriate age, therefore has it in his own hands to begin the process of unity. He lamented, four years ago, that the FA's lack of discussion with the professional managers, whose chairman he remains, was "like planning a war, and not asking the field marshals and generals whether they had any thoughts, values, opinions on the matter".

There are those in the schools who know precisely what he means. Suspicion and mistrust have festered between teachers and the clubs, and between schools and the FA, for two destructive decades. Even today, those who teach children are wary of what they regard as the dictatorial policies of Charles Hughes, the director of coaching and education, whose long tenure at the FA will soon end.

His curriculum for schools, contained in the final recommendations of the FA's programme for excellence, has by no means been adopted within a majority of the 13,000 to 15,000 football-playing

schools in England. However, Berry, the chief executive, and Morton, the chairman, agree that the centres of excellence which the FA has established throughout the country are thriving, and are a fulfilling venture for many school teachers. Similarly, the schools are at one with the FA in promoting five and six-a-side tournaments, that take the growing pupils out of the crippling 11-a-side, full-pitch syndrome.

"There is still a need for leadership," Morton said. "We need some vision about where we are going. We want to trust the FA, to seek integration with them, to feel that the welfare of growing young footballers is of common interest."

To achieve that, Wilkinson, now effectively the professor of coaching, needs as a priori

ty to enter the schools debate. "My work will be about drawing together people who love, nurture, and look after young performers," he said last week. "They are the prime people — legislation, politics, control are important in the game, but if we forget how to develop the performer, there is no game to control."

It was an inauspicious start, that empty chair at the Lancaster Gate table, and there remain awkward issues. John Morton is perturbed about the 85 per cent of boys released at the age of 18 by professional clubs, the fallout rate that never ceases to alarm educationalists. Some teachers, too, remain unconvinced that illegal methods of procuring schoolboys have been addressed with the full weight of authority.

So, the conflict between

educators and the so-called profession remains a source of disquiet. But Berry, adamant that partnership and not confrontation is the way ahead, suggests: "For far too long, all the bodies in football went their own way. If the FA are serious in developing the grass roots, then for the first time in their lives, they must help to fund schools football, in return for which the schools would help to develop the players they want."

He awaits, therefore, Wilkinson's call, and part of the early discussion should be the appointment of an FA director for schools footballers, "a children's director", as Jimmy Armfield, the former England full back and the man who has worked behind the scenes to narrow the divides, forecast last week. Back to the classroom and the playing fields.

Best leads the way for Winchester to secure title hat-trick

By JOHN GOODBODY

NOT much stops cross country. The slopes and bracken of Knole Park in Kent have been covered in snow and ice for almost a fortnight and, on Saturday, a mist settled on the hills.

However, Sevenoaks School, the hosts, put down grit on the most hazardous inclines, shortened the boys' race to 3.9 miles and allowed one of the most picturesque events in the schools' sporting calendar to take place. If some of the backmarkers looked unhappy in the conditions, the faster runners usually kept their balance and control.

One exception was Ed Barnett, fourth equal last year and determined to lead Winchester to their third successive team victory in an event entered by 44 schools. He was accidentally tripped and eventually finished fifth.

Winchester still packed six athletes into the top 18 to finish well ahead of Heron, with Shrewsbury third.

"The victory was a justification for the upcoming preparation of Colin Upton and Johnny Brooks, the college's masters in charge."

Last term, members of the squad were often training four times a week at 9.15pm around the streets of the cathedral city after homework had been completed. The boys were given individual running schedules for the Christmas holidays and there were phone calls to check how they were progressing. Upton said: "I think my voice on the end of the phone was not always welcome."

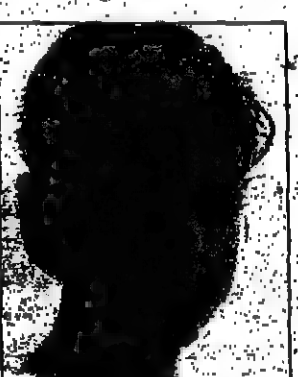


IN SCHOOLS

Mark Best, equal fourth with Barnett last year, finished second as the first Winchester boy home. Only 17, he is an Independent Schools 1,500 metres champion.

Only Slintons School in the 1970s had previously achieved a hat-trick. Best said of the conditions: "It was really foggy and slippery. We just had to grind it out." He finished two seconds behind Oliver Laws, of Shrewsbury, who won in 21min 24sec.

Laws opted to take part in the Knole km rather than the inter-counties championships



Turner: triumphant

which also took place on Saturday and in which he took an age-group title in 1995. Second last year, he took an early lead on Saturday, using short spikes that helped him to grip the snow.

He allowed his leading rivals to make the pace up the most severe hill and then regained the lead near the 15th-century house celebrated for its links with the Bloomsbury Set. He was never headed again.

Laws topped the national under-17 3,000 metres rankings last year and is hoping to qualify for the 1997 world junior cross-country trials. Bob Parker, who retires this year after 22 years as master in charge at Shrewsbury, said: "He has good speed endurance and can sit in on a fast pace. He does not have a super kick, although it has improved in the last year."

Parker rates one schoolboy runner ahead of Laws among teams he has led. That was at his previous school, Abbeydale Grange in Sheffield. The athlete was Seb Goss.

In the girls' race, over 1.9 miles, Katie Turner, of Stamford HS had what she termed a "cat-and-mouse" race with Sarah Langridge, of Ardingly, who finished third. "After I overtook her for what was the last time I did not look behind." If she had, she would have received a shock. Olivia Hills, of Bradfield, a former Somerset schools 800 metres champion, finished only a second behind, despite having done no serious running "for years". Ardingly, the Mid-Sussex champions last term, took the team title.



Laws takes an early lead on his way to cross-country victory at Knole Park

Tonbridge feel the benefit of winter tour

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE problems of schools' cricket during the summer are well known. There is the clash with exams and the need to give pupils time for revision. There is the earlier start to an increasingly shorter term that often leads to fewer matches being played because of the bad weather.

One way to develop boys' cricket is to have a winter tour, such as the one Tonbridge have just enjoyed in Australia. Paul Taylor, the master in charge, said: "It has given us another season."

Many of the first XI from last summer, including James Pyemont, the schoolboy cricketer of the year, have now left. That team enjoyed a record 14 victories.

Taylor said: "The last overseas tour we had was 1992-93. It had a tremendous impact on cricket, with an injection of inspiration and new ideas."

In the past four years Tonbridge have won 51 of their 68 completed matches. In Australia, Tonbridge were victorious in seven and drew one of their 11 matches, meeting a mixture of schools, clubs and representative sides.

However, results were secondary to the development of younger players. "The tour allows us to coach them on the way we want to play cricket. We risk a loss to try to win. Often in schoolboys' cricket there is a fear of losing, with too many drawn games," Taylor said.

A winter tour is particularly useful for Tonbridge because, although Taylor said the school is "spoilt rotten" by having eight, top-quality outdoor pitches in, unusually, has

no facilities for indoor net practice.

Included in the Tonbridge touring team was James McCulley, the 1997 school cricket captain, who topped the batting averages in Australia, scoring 399 runs. He said: "We had to adjust to the heat and the low bounce of the ball but a tour does give younger players the chance to play with senior boys. It is also such a valuable experience to go to another country and meet people there."

Jamie Parker, 16, was one younger player who should benefit. He finished top of the

Schools results 34

bowling averages with his left-arm, medium pace, round the wicket, which he delivers off the front foot. Taylor said: "He can deceive batsmen with an appalling looser before he has got his rhythm and length right."

Parker, whose father, Paul, is the former England Test player and Sussex captain, and is now a Tonbridge housemaster, is unusually versatile. He is both a music and academic scholar and won the national under-15 rackets titles, both singles and doubles. He said: "The two sports help each other. Rackets keeps you sharp and helps you keep your eye in."

Not every boy would willingly give up 3½ weeks of the Christmas holidays, but for a keen cricketer a tour can make all the difference to a successful summer, and not only in 1997.

England draw up critical list

By LOUISE TAYLOR

BEDFORD is not usually associated with weekend breaks, but the England under-21 and senior netball squads have benefited from spending the past two days at De Montfort University.

Liz Broomhead, the national coach, booked the weekend as final preparation for the home internationals, which begin with the England v Wales clash in Cardiff on January 25. Teams for that match will be announced today and those hoping to go on the tour to South Africa in the spring will be anxiously perusing the names on Broomhead's list.

England have lost just once in 55 encounters with Wales and they aim to improve on last year's 50-32 victory. "We will be submitting our stron-

gest under-21 and senior squads in Cardiff," Broomhead said. "The match will play an important part in the selection of players for this year's overseas touring parties."

An England reserve team would probably easily defeat Wales and Broomhead must wish that the home countries offered slightly stiffer opposition. One reason that England remain fourth in the world rankings is a shortage of decent opposition closer to home.

Netball is generally played in Commonwealth or ex-Commonwealth countries. European interest is strictly limited, although Malta will be taking part in a spring tournament, that also involves England.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

However, it will seem a quantum leap for Broomhead's squad and their captain, Fiona Murtagh, to face South Africa, now second in the world after their triumphant post-apartheid return to the international stage during the 1995 world championships in Birmingham.

At least the policy of holding joint senior and under-21 squad training sessions appears to be paying dividends — Tracey Neville, an England goal-shooter and sister of the Manchester United footballer, Gary and Phil, is merely the most celebrated of half-a-dozen former junior players who will be awaiting selection news today.

Bullimore sounds fanfare for common men of sailing

Edward Gorman on the yachtsman whose new fame is like a breath of fresh air to the sport

WE have not heard the full Tony Bullimore story yet and no doubt there will be a lot more razzmatazz to come, with film deals, newspaper buy-outs and a book. Yet if Bullimore's "15 minutes of fame" ended tomorrow, the sailing world can already be grateful.

Bullimore, the self-styled "Del-Boy" of yachting, is exactly what you do not expect. More importantly, he is nothing like what the general public would have expected in a round-the-world racing yachtsman: I should not think there has ever been a blue blazer in his fitted wardrobe.

Despite the fact that many of our top racing sailors are from modest backgrounds, the sport still suffers from its image as elitist and snobby; it is seen not as an ordinary recreation open to all, but one where a selection process based on means restricts the field from the beginning.

Bullimore is not the exception that proves that rule, because, in truth, there are many like him in the sport. But, unlike them, he is under the spotlight. He came out of his upturned hull the other day like the breath of fresh air for yachting his starved lungs must have been yearning for.

That first interview from the *HMAS Adelaide*, about "determination, chocolate and water", punctured a million preconceptions about the "exclusive" world of yachting. Here was a normal, downy-street kind of guy from Southend who, to use a well-worn phrase, had "ducked and dived" his way through life, combining all sorts of unlikely business activities with a passion for yachting.

and no handouts from daddy. Bullimore, we are told, scraped the money together to get *Edzie Challenger* in the water and was going to return to some pretty irksome financial and business problems — that is, until he performed the nautical equivalent of winning the lottery.

His dramatic impact also reminds us that British sailing still lacks stars and human interest stories to excite the public. The sport is no more complicated than, say, cricket, yet much of the commentary still bores people with jargon and theory. Until sailing simplifies itself so that ordinary people can judge who is better than who, it will always struggle for the sporting public's attention.



Bullimore: has captured imagination of public

Many yachtsmen love it for these very reasons: an activity that is carried on away from the madding crowd, often at considerable risk. But the French, who guard the passion for the philosophical challenge of the sport more fervently than any other nation, have shown that sailing and public enthusiasm can go hand in hand.

In France, the interest in yachting is huge. The Vendée Globe skippers are stars in their own right and their progress is charted in great detail in the press. It is ironic that Pete Goss, for example, is probably better known in Lyons than he is in Wolverhampton and also that it is the French who dominate single-handed sailing, when it was pioneered by the British.

Millions of people, including young children, were captivated by the romance and drama of the Vendée during those five long days while Bullimore waited for that knock on the hull. A lot of them must have wondered what it would be like to take on the world's oceans themselves and perhaps, one day, some of them will try.

The "miracle" of Bullimore's rescue, however, reflected more the general view that he was probably dead than the experience he actually endured. While Bullimore was relatively safe in his hull, Thierry Dubois, who capsized at about the same time, was luckier to have survived.

Dubois was stuck outside his upturned hull. On three occasions he was swept off into the water and, even after he got into a life-raft, he was turned out of it, only to be spotted again in the freezing water 30 minutes later.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

EVERY FRIDAY

Stevenage begin attack on summit

Hayes 1
Stevenage Borough 3

By WALTER GAMMIE

ONE down, five to go. Stevenage Borough successfully picked off one of their six matches in hand over Kidderminster Harriers, the Vauxhall Conference leaders, at Church Road on Saturday.

With Kidderminster's trip to Heddesford called off, Stevenage moved into second place, 15 points behind, their quarry back in sight after the excitement of their FA Cup venture — and with the chance to cut deeper into Kidderminster's lead, when

the two sides meet at Broadhall Way on Saturday week.

Stevenage conceded a goal in the second minute on Saturday, superbly booked over his shoulder past Wilmoit from 25 yards by Hall, recently called up by Barbados to play in the Caribbean Cup in April. It was not until two minutes into the second half that they drew level and then finally imposed themselves upon improving opponents who had won four of their previous five matches.

Hayes, under the gaze, for the second week, of Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, turned home the rebound after Meara had

done well to keep out a fierce header by Beevor.

Stevenage took the lead in the 62nd minute, with Hayes guilty of feeling sorry for themselves after a Francis free kick had smacked the woodwork and Broomie finding space to play in Beevor.

Six minutes later, Beevor switched the ball across the penalty area for Catlin to guide the ball home and wrap up a precious victory.

HAYES (3-1-4-2): R. Meara — N. Broomie, J. Goodfellow, A. Cox — D. Whetton — J. Randall, J. Foy, J. Doozy, M. Hill — J. Roberts (sub: G. Williams, 66min), J. Hayes (sub: J. Brady, 70)

STEVENAGE BOROUGH (3-4-1-3): R. Wilmoit — G. Sack, M. Smith, R. Kirby — D. Hooper, S. Beevor, P. Barmwell, R. Meara — J. Catlin — G. Hayes (sub: G. Cornwell, 88), G. Broomie (sub: R. Tisdale, 72).

Referee: D. Crook.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

Cross country

AMOREBIETA Spain: WAF event. Fourth round. Men (100m): 1. D. Chelie (Rum) 33min 42sec, 2. M. Borden (Rum) 33min 43sec, 3. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 44sec, 4. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 45sec, 5. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 46sec, 6. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 47sec, 7. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 48sec, 8. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 49sec, 9. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 50sec, 10. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 51sec.

Boxing

YORK HALL British: Heavyweight championship. Paul Jones (Wales) vs. Paul Jones (Wales). Jones won by unanimous decision. **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP** (Wales) vs. (Wales). Jones won by unanimous decision.

Cricket

WAKEFIELD North of England: Championship. Wakefield vs. Wakefield. Wakefield won by 100 runs.

Road running

HASTINGS Open (100m): 1. P. Taylor (Wales) 33min 42sec, 2. M. Borden (Rum) 33min 43sec, 3. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 44sec, 4. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 45sec, 5. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 46sec, 6. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 47sec, 7. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 48sec, 8. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 49sec, 9. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 50sec, 10. J. B. Borden (Rum) 33min 51sec.

Biathlon

RUPOLDING Germany: World Cup. Rupolding vs. Rupolding. Rupolding won by 100 runs.

Bowls

DENNY CUP South: Championship. Denny vs. Denny. Denny won by 100 runs.

Cycling

SUTTON PARK Birmingham: British open championship. Sutton Park vs. Sutton Park. Sutton Park won by 100 runs.

Rugby Union

LEADING SCORERS: 188: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 2nd: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 3rd: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 4th: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 5th: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 6th: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 7th: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 8th: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 9th: S. Gough (Wales) 100, 10th: S. Gough (Wales) 100.

Tennis

POSTPONED: Glasgow: Championship. Glasgow vs. Glasgow. Glasgow won by 100 runs.

Ski jumping

ENGBERG Switzerland: World Cup. Engeborg vs. Engeborg. Engeborg won by 100 runs.

Speed skating

HEERENVEEN: Holland: European championship. Heerenveen vs. Heerenveen. Heerenveen won by 100 runs.

Squash

GALLSFURY British: British open. Gallsfury vs. Gallsfury. Gallsfury won by 100 runs.

Table tennis

KETTERING English: Open: Round-robin. Kettering vs. Kettering. Kettering won by 100 runs.

Volleyball

NATIONAL LEAGUE Women: First division. National League vs. National League. National League won by 100 runs.

Darts

FRIMLEY GREEN Surrey: Embassy World championship. Frimley Green vs. Frimley Green. Frimley Green won by 100 runs.

Golf

MELBOURNE Victoria: Open. Melbourne vs. Melbourne. Melbourne won by 100 runs.

Hockey

NELSON HALL Glasgow: World Cup. Nelson Hall vs. Nelson Hall. Nelson Hall won by 100 runs.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): First division. National League vs. National League. National League won by 100 runs.

Motor rallying

DAKAR Senegal: Rally. Dakar vs. Dakar. Dakar won by 100 runs.

Rugby League

SLAUGHTER Challenge Cup: First round. Slaughter vs. Slaughter. Slaughter won by 100 runs.

Snooker

NORRIDGE CASTLE HOTEL Blackpool: Snooker. Norridge Castle Hotel vs. Norridge Castle Hotel. Norridge Castle Hotel won by 100 runs.

Skiing

CHAMONIX France: World Cup. Chamonix vs. Chamonix. Chamonix won by 100 runs.

Tennis

POSTPONED: Glasgow: Championship. Glasgow vs. Glasgow. Glasgow won by 100 runs.

Ski jumping

ENGBERG Switzerland: World Cup. Engeborg vs. Engeborg. Engeborg won by 100 runs.

Speed skating

HEERENVEEN: Holland: European championship. Heerenveen vs. Heerenveen. Heerenveen won by 100 runs.

Squash

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Table tennis

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Volleyball

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Ski jumping

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RACING

Levy Board finances escape worst of weather

By JULIAN MUSCAT

RACING has emerged from its weather-enforced hiatus in sound financial shape. As a widespread thaw offered the prospect of an imminent return to normality, Horserace Betting Levy Board officials confirmed that the two-week absence of turf racing in Britain would not impact on the sport's finances.

The worst sufferers have been jockeys and racecourses, the latter only partially protected through insurance of their bigger fixtures against inclement weather. But no cuts to the prize-money pool are planned after the emergency package of all-weather fixtures generated higher than expected levels of betting turnover.

Although, however, the abandonment of today was the 51st fixture lost this season, it will require further disruptions before the Levy Board is forced to

ing. Remarkably, televised coverage of Lingfield's Saturday meeting nine days ago — coupled with the emergency fixture from Wolverhampton — generated nearly 90 per cent of the forecast turnover had the combined turf fixtures at Haydock, Sandown, Warwick and Musselburgh gone ahead. The all-weather success story could not have come at a better time, prize-money for 1997 had already been reduced to £28.5 million from £30 million the previous year.

Nevertheless, Brack calculated that over £1 million in levy has been lost since the weather deteriorated over Christmas. Packages of additional fixtures have been arranged, both to claw back the deficit and provide opportunities for beleaguered racecourse executives. "The emphasis is to give racecourses a chance to recover," he said. "Every racecourse to have lost a fixture has lost revenue."

In addition, prize-money for some existing races has been boosted to alleviate the loss of a series of valuable prizes. Five contests at Kempton's two-day meeting later this week have benefited from enhanced funding. The two on Friday — the Walton Juvenile Novices' Hurdle and the Asford Novices' Hurdle — have respectively attracted 32 and 42 entries, many of them highly regarded. Two chasers at Haydock on Saturday have had their purses similarly increased.

More immediately, the outlook for tomorrow is encouraging with a full programme in prospect. At Leicester, which stages the first of a batch of replacement fixtures, Nick Lees, the clerk of the course, said: "We could race on the hurdles, course now and, although there is still some frost on the chase course, things are improving all the time."

A similarly bright bulletin was issued on behalf of Carlisle. The clerk of the course, Johnnie Fenwick-Clemens, said: "We are frost free, it is mild and the forecast is good." Fenwick-Clemens also reported that Kielder, scheduled to race on Friday, is now free of snow.

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS

LEICESTER: good (frost free).
LEICESTER: good (frost free).
LEICESTER: good (frost free).

Nap: KLIPSINGER (2.55 Southwell)
Next best: Chasetown Flyer (3.25 Southwell)

revise its financial commitments. "We will be outside our budget even if the weather is tolerable in February and March, but there is no cause for alarm," Rodney Brack, chief executive of the Levy Board, said. "We allow for 45 abandonments. Most of the losses have been budgeted for, and the all-weather fixtures slotted in between Christmas and the new year have worked well. These replacement fixtures have been a brilliant success."

Freezing conditions 12 months ago saw horse racing take place for five days after Christmas. When the scheduled all-weather programme commenced in January, some £1 million in levy had been lost. That prompted the British Horseracing Board to prepare the contingency plans that have sustained the sport this year. "We estimate that the five all-weather fixtures after Christmas brought in £350,000 in levy income," Brack said. "There is the additional cost of staging these meetings to consider but funds were obviously saved as turf racing was halted."

All-weather racing has seen punters bet up to 70 per cent of the sums expected from a full daily programme of turf racing.



Master Tribe holds off Black Queen as they draw clear of The Ladbroke field at Leopardstown on Saturday

Champion beckons Master Tribe

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT LEOPARDSTOWN

MASTER TRIBE will be entered for the Champion Hurdle on the strength of his success in The Ladbroke, a handicap hurdle, at Leopardstown on Saturday. The Jersey Pitman-trained gelding became the first British-trained winner of the race since Barnbrook 'Again' in 1987 when beating Black Queen by a head.

"He will be entered for the Champion Hurdle in an open year when there may be a chance of picking up some prize-money," a stable spokesman said yesterday. "Master Tribe is owned by the Jebel Ali Racing Stables, run by Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum, who wanted a horse in training at Weathercock House after seeing Royal Athlete win the Martell Grand National in 1995. Mrs Pitman had taken the seven-year-old to Wolverhampton for a race-

course gallop after the freezing weather disrupted his training schedule. Ladbrokes rates Master Tribe a 50-1 chance for the hurdling championship and goes 33-1 Penny A Day, who was conceding 20lb to the winner, "Penny A Day ran a blinder," Reveley said. "The fast pace suited him; the faster they go, the better he jumps. If they are going to enter Master Tribe for the Champion, we might as well have a go because at level weights things would have been a lot different."

Penny A Day will first tackle the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury on February 8, for which he is 8-1 favourite with William Hill. He is set to carry 10st 2lb but the weights will rise if, as expected, the top weight, Large Action, does not run. "We could stand the

weights going up 10lb or 12lb," Reveley added.

It was an excellent day for Williamson, who also won the Pierce Leopardstown Chase on the Grand National prospect, Time For A Run. The Edward O'Grady-trained gelding, waited with as usual, quickened impressively from the last to beat Whale Of A Knight by ten lengths. "I couldn't have asked for more. After that, he should justifiably be a National entry," O'Grady commented. The owner of Time For A Run, J.P. McManus, said the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup at the Cheltenham Festival could be the ideal warm-up race for the National.

Michael Hourigan, the trainer, nominated the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham as the main target for Ultra Flyer after his success under Tony McCoy in the Fitzpatrick Novices' Chase. Ultra Flyer beat Miracle Man, trained in Sussex by Colin Wootton, by half a length and will make his debut on his stable companion, Dorans Pride, at Leopardstown on February 2.

"Tony said he went too slowly early on, and after all the bad weather, the horse blew up at the second last," Hourigan said. "We will know more about where he and Dorans Pride will go after their next race."

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS: M. Pigg 108, R. B. 107, R. B. 106, R. B. 105, R. B. 104, R. B. 103, R. B. 102, R. B. 101, R. B. 100, R. B. 99, R. B. 98, R. B. 97, R. B. 96, R. B. 95, R. B. 94, R. B. 93, R. B. 92, R. B. 91, R. B. 90, R. B. 89, R. B. 88, R. B. 87, R. B. 86, R. B. 85, R. B. 84, R. B. 83, R. B. 82, R. B. 81, R. B. 80, R. B. 79, R. B. 78, R. B. 77, R. B. 76, R. B. 75, R. B. 74, R. B. 73, R. B. 72, R. B. 71, R. B. 70, R. B. 69, R. B. 68, R. B. 67, R. B. 66, R. B. 65, R. B. 64, R. B. 63, R. B. 62, R. B. 61, R. B. 60, R. B. 59, R. B. 58, R. B. 57, R. B. 56, R. B. 55, R. B. 54, R. B. 53, R. B. 52, R. B. 51, R. B. 50, R. B. 49, R. B. 48, R. B. 47, R. B. 46, R. B. 45, R. B. 44, R. B. 43, R. B. 42, R. B. 41, R. B. 40, R. B. 39, R. B. 38, R. B. 37, R. B. 36, R. B. 35, R. B. 34, R. B. 33, R. B. 32, R. B. 31, R. B. 30, R. B. 29, R. B. 28, R. B. 27, R. B. 26, R. B. 25, R. B. 24, R. B. 23, R. B. 22, R. B. 21, R. B. 20, R. B. 19, R. B. 18, R. B. 17, R. B. 16, R. B. 15, R. B. 14, R. B. 13, R. B. 12, R. B. 11, R. B. 10, R. B. 9, R. B. 8, R. B. 7, R. B. 6, R. B. 5, R. B. 4, R. B. 3, R. B. 2, R. B. 1, R. B. 0.

JOCKEYS: A. P. McCoy 122, R. B. 121, R. B. 120, R. B. 119, R. B. 118, R. B. 117, R. B. 116, R. B. 115, R. B. 114, R. B. 113, R. B. 112, R. B. 111, R. B. 110, R. B. 109, R. B. 108, R. B. 107, R. B. 106, R. B. 105, R. B. 104, R. B. 103, R. B. 102, R. B. 101, R. B. 100, R. B. 99, R. B. 98, R. B. 97, R. B. 96, R. B. 95, R. B. 94, R. B. 93, R. B. 92, R. B. 91, R. B. 90, R. B. 89, R. B. 88, R. B. 87, R. B. 86, R. B. 85, R. B. 84, R. B. 83, R. B. 82, R. B. 81, R. B. 80, R. B. 79, R. B. 78, R. B. 77, R. B. 76, R. B. 75, R. B. 74, R. B. 73, R. B. 72, R. B. 71, R. B. 70, R. B. 69, R. B. 68, R. B. 67, R. B. 66, R. B. 65, R. B. 64, R. B. 63, R. B. 62, R. B. 61, R. B. 60, R. B. 59, R. B. 58, R. B. 57, R. B. 56, R. B. 55, R. B. 54, R. B. 53, R. B. 52, R. B. 51, R. B. 50, R. B. 49, R. B. 48, R. B. 47, R. B. 46, R. B. 45, R. B. 44, R. B. 43, R. B. 42, R. B. 41, R. B. 40, R. B. 39, R. B. 38, R. B. 37, R. B. 36, R. B. 35, R. B. 34, R. B. 33, R. B. 32, R. B. 31, R. B. 30, R. B. 29, R. B. 28, R. B. 27, R. B. 26, R. B. 25, R. B. 24, R. B. 23, R. B. 22, R. B. 21, R. B. 20, R. B. 19, R. B. 18, R. B. 17, R. B. 16, R. B. 15, R. B. 14, R. B. 13, R. B. 12, R. B. 11, R. B. 10, R. B. 9, R. B. 8, R. B. 7, R. B. 6, R. B. 5, R. B. 4, R. B. 3, R. B. 2, R. B. 1, R. B. 0.

SOUTHWELL

12.55 Down The Yard 2.25 Mairdull
1.25 Raffles Rooster 2.25 Klipsinger
1.55 Sea Devil 3.55 Broughton's Pride (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 12.55 DOWN THE YARD. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.55 PRIMA SILK (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.55 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP (Div 1: £1,944; 1m) (10 runners)

101 (8) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
102 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
103 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
104 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
105 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
106 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
107 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
108 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
109 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
110 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84

Long handicap: 12.55 Down The Yard, 2.25 Mairdull, 1.55 Sea Devil, 3.55 Broughton's Pride (nap).

12.55 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP (Div 1: £1,944; 1m) (10 runners)

101 (8) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
102 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
103 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
104 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
105 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
106 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
107 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
108 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
109 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
110 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84

Long handicap: 12.55 Down The Yard, 2.25 Mairdull, 1.55 Sea Devil, 3.55 Broughton's Pride (nap).

12.55 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP (Div 1: £1,944; 1m) (10 runners)

101 (8) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
102 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
103 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
104 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
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Long handicap: 12.55 Down The Yard, 2.25 Mairdull, 1.55 Sea Devil, 3.55 Broughton's Pride (nap).

12.55 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP (Div 1: £1,944; 1m) (10 runners)

101 (8) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
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109 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
110 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84

Long handicap: 12.55 Down The Yard, 2.25 Mairdull, 1.55 Sea Devil, 3.55 Broughton's Pride (nap).

12.55 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP (Div 1: £1,944; 1m) (10 runners)

101 (8) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
102 (12) 100-4-6 CHANDLER LANE (10) (J. J. Bagg) 5-10-10 F Lynch (8) 84
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Long handicap: 12.55 Down The Yard, 2.25 Mairdull, 1.55 Sea Devil, 3.55 Broughton's Pride (nap).

12.55 FAIR ISLE HANDICAP (Div 1: £1,944; 1m) (10 runners)

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1.55 ISLE OF SKYE CLAIM

Amanda Loose on Pop-lacrosse — the mini-version of the game with few rules but plenty of enjoyment

Tough sport made children-friendly

Pop-lacrosse is one of Britain's fastest growing sports — and children love it. A miniature version of the field game, Pop-lacrosse is played in more than 1,200 schools and the numbers are growing by the term, says Mark Coups, the national director of development and coaching for the English Lacrosse Association (ELA).

Pop was launched at the 1987 London Youth Games, at Crystal Palace, to encourage more children to play lacrosse from an earlier age. "People in lacrosse realised we were not attracting the youngsters as early as other sports did. The earlier you attract children, the greater the chance of keeping them," Mr Coups says.

It has been a huge hit. The number of players has increased by about 10 per cent each year, and there are now 30 ELA coaches working in more than 600 schools, three quarters of which are primary schools. It is also an ideal game for people with learning difficulties or with disabilities.

The membership of many of the clubs has increased thanks to children being encouraged to go along by their schools and more youngsters are taking up field lacrosse, Coups says.

"Pop is a progressive sport. About 80 per cent of the male British under-19s team started by playing Pop, and at the under 16s level, this figure is even higher. Pop is becoming the basis for the proper game. Having coaches from a club coming into schools helps us to hang on to the children," says Mr Coups, who first played field lacrosse when he was only two.

"We looked at games like football, which were in direct competition with us, by attracting the eight to 11-year-olds, and realised that we needed a miniature version of lacrosse," he says.

An indoor or outdoor game, Pop can be played on any surface, and the ELA rules say that the game should be played with mixed teams of eight children, four boys and four girls wherever possible. "It is a very basic, non-contact version of field lacrosse," Mr Coups says.

"Using lightweight plastic sticks which bend, and softer balls, the children learn to throw, catch and shoot, and as there aren't any goalkeepers, every child has the opportunity to score."

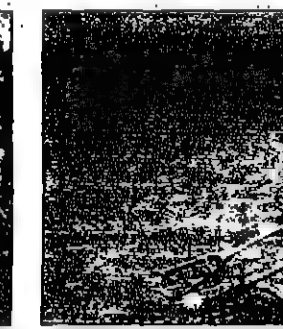
Emma Bradbury, 18, is working as a local development officer for the ELA in her gap year, before studying sports science at university. Ms Bradbury has been teaching Pop to the seven to 11-year-olds at Hereford Cathedral Junior School since September, and at Garsley and Lugwardine primary schools in the same area.

"We went over six years ago," says Tim Lowe, headmaster of Hereford Cathedral Junior School, "so I wanted to boost games the girls could take part in."

After Mr Lowe had watched children playing Pop at the Manchester Youth Games last year, he contacted the lacrosse club in his home village of Mellor, near Manchester, to



Team game: Emma Bradbury, 18, who is working as a local development officer for the English Lacrosse Association in her gap year, with her Pop-lacrosse pupils at Hereford Cathedral Junior School



Tim Lowe, centre, headmaster of the school, says: "Lacrosse is great for developing hand-eye co-ordination and ball skills. The coaches are trained to make it fun"

find out if it had any gap year students who would be willing to coach his pupils.

"It is a real beginners' game and great for developing hand-eye co-ordination and ball skills. The coaches are trained to make it all fun for the children," he says.

"The pupils love it and it was very cheap and easy to set up. We use mini hockey goals and bought 24 sticks for £184, with different coloured heads for the teams."

Coups says: "Pop meets all the National Curriculum requirements for Key Stage 2, which had added to its popularity in schools. It suits all sporting abilities and the children start at the same level, because none of them have ever played before."

"Pop is very fast and a novelty for the children because they can carry the ball along. The whole body is used, and their limbs have to be co-ordinated. They have to use

their imagination to decide where to throw the ball next."

Ms Bradbury started to play field lacrosse at The Atherly School, Southampton, when she was ten, and at 17 played for Hampshire, where she is now a reserve in the county senior squad.

"The children enjoy Pop because of the minimal rules of the game," she says.

Because there isn't a goalkeeper, scoring opportunities are high. Apart from teaching Pop during the school day, I have just started an after-school Pop club."

Ms Bradbury is the first coach to be employed full time, and for a year. The other coaches, half of whom are American, are graduates working for six months. They are trained by the ELA, but financed by the local clubs, and are provided with a salary, car and accommoda-

tion. "Some of this is offset by payments from local schools. Local authorities in some areas will also support coaching," Mr Coups says.

Each coach works in anything from 12 to 20 schools each week, spending about an hour in each school. Coaching programmes are co-ordinated by ELA regional development officers, and supplementary coaching courses for teachers are provided. They also run local and regional tournaments, as well as the national Pop lacrosse championships.

Two eight-strong teams of the children from Hereford Cathedral Junior School have just taken part in their first tournament, organised by the Welsh Lacrosse Association. The B team reached the semi-finals of their group, and the children are now working towards a more advanced seven-a-side tournament next term — with a little extra coaching from Ms Bradbury.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

In this year's Gold Cup, Steve Ray's team consisted of three husband and wife pairs — the Rays, the Seniors and the Teshomes. They lost by 6 IMPs in the round of 16, to Bernard Telscher's London-based team. This is a hand on which Tony Friday (South) afterwards criticised his own play.

Dealer North	Love all	IMP
♠ 4 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ A K 8 6 2 ♣ A K 2	♠ K J 10 ♥ 8 6 ♦ Q 10 5 3 ♣ Q 7 5 4	
♠ A 8 5 2 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ 10 9 8	♠ N ♥ W ♦ E ♣ S	♠ 9 7 6 5 ♥ A K 7 5 2 ♦ 4 ♣ J 8 3

Contract: Four Hearts by South.

Lead: ten of clubs

North (Telscher) opened One Diamond and over South's One Heart response rebid 1NT, showing a balanced hand with 15-17 points. Then South bid Two Clubs, an inquiry bid. Now North jumped to Three Hearts to show a maximum with three-card heart support, and South went on to game.

Friday won the club lead in dummy. As he needed to set up a spade ruff he continued with a low spade. Unfortunately East was able to win, and she played a trump. Friday won with the king, and a second spade went to East's king: back came another trump.

In practice Friday played low and a third round of trumps from West sunk the contract. But as Friday said afterwards he should go up with the ace on the second heart. Provided the diamonds break favourably, he will have ten tricks when the hearts are 3-2, whoever has the queen.

After the ace of hearts

declarer should continue with the ace of diamonds, and a diamond ruff. He then crosses to dummy with a club, and when the queen doesn't come down, he discards a club on the king of diamonds. Now he ruffs a diamond in hand, establishing the suit. Finally declarer ruffs a spade in dummy and cashes the fifth diamond. The tricks he makes are one spade ruff, four hearts in hand, two high diamonds and two club tricks.

Several current world champions are among the 16 pairs who will be playing in the Macallan International Pairs 1997 (January 22 to 24, at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1). You can watch at the tables or in the Viewgraph theatre. Information: 0181-878 5544.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TYPHON
a. With two voices
b. A waterspout
c. A giant

TENONIAN
a. Land tenure
b. With ten heads
c. To do with eyeballs

TRAGELAPH
a. A Flemish gable end
b. A goat-deer
c. A tragic semichorus

TUGGLE
a. A scout's cravat
b. To tug and wiggle
c. A freshwater fish

Answers on page 40

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Wijk aan Zee

This week sees the start of one of the major events in the chess calendar, the traditional elite competition in the Dutch town of Wijk aan Zee. Nigel Short, Britain's top grandmaster, will be hoping to repeat his triumph from Groningen in December, where he captured first prize. On this occasion, though, the strength of the field will be increased by the inclusion of the strong grandmasters Gata Kamsky, Vassily Ivanchuk and Valery Salov.

In the past, though, Short has shown himself well able to inflict defeat on this type of opponent and British fans will be hoping for another Short victory, confirming that he has finally returned to top form after his match defeat by Kasparov in London in 1993.

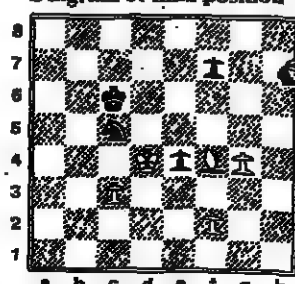
White: Nigel Short
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Horgen 1995

French Defence

1 e4	e6
2 d4	d5
3 Nc3	Bd4
4 e5	Ne7
5 e3	Bxc3+
6 Bxc3	c5
7 Nf3	Qc7
8 N4	Bd7
9 h5	h6
10 Bc3	Ba4
11 Qc2	Ne7
12 Rf4	Qa5
13 Be3	Rc6
14 Rb1	Bc6
15 Qd2	Qxc3
16 Rg4	Kf5
17 Rb4	Nf5
18 Bxf5	gxf5
19 Rg4	Qd1+
20 Qd1	Qxd1+
21 Kd1	Re8
22 Rf5	Kg6
23 Rg4	Re7
24 Rg3	Kh7

25 Bd4	Rhe8
26 Rf4	Nf6
27 Rf4	g5
28 Rf4	Ng6
29 Rf3	Bd7
30 Ng6+	Kg6
31 e6	Bxc6
32 Nxe6	Rxe6
33 Rf4	Rf1+
34 Kd2	Rd4+
35 Kd3	Kf6
36 Rf5	Rf4
37 Rf4	Qd4+
38 Kd2	Rf1
39 e6	bxc6
40 Bxf7	Ka7
41 Bd4	Rd5
42 Rb6	cxb6
43 e4	bxc4
44 Kc3	Nf4
45 g3	Ne6
46 Kc4	Kd6
47 Bf6	Kc6
48 g4	Kd6
49 c3	Kc6
50 Bc5	Nc5
51 Kd4	Nc5
52 Bg3	Nc5
53 B4	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

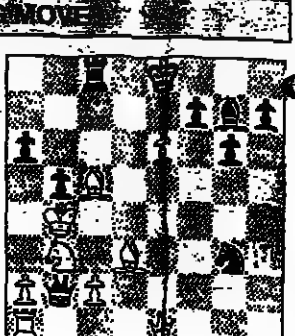


Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE



Black to play. This position is from the game Topalov — Krumnik, Belgrade 1995. In this remarkable game, Black's vicious attack had forced the white king to run from the kingside to the queenside in the hope of finding shelter. How does Black now show that White's efforts have been in vain?

Solution on page 40



In early versions of the game, matches could last for two or three days

THE GAME SO FAR...

EARLY field lacrosse was certainly a sport for all. Explorers in America found teams made up of more than 100, and sometimes 1,000. Native Americans playing a fast and furious game called Bagagaway.

It often lasted two or three days and the goals were sometimes several miles apart. The game was used to accustom warriors to close combat, and to encourage endurance for war and hunting parties.

The game was dubbed "lacrosse" by French settlers because of the similarity between a bishop's crozier and the long netted stick used by players. Queen Victoria was an early fan of field lacrosse when it came to England in the last century. It quickly became part of the then Cult of Athleticism, adopted by men's clubs and girls' schools, which became the bastions of field lacrosse.

The sport has recently experienced a renaissance — there are at least 100 lacrosse clubs in England, Scotland and Wales, and about 15,000 adults play lacrosse regularly. The game has also become faster than ever, with ball speeds in excess of 115mph.

Both the male and female British teams are the European lacrosse champions and the women's team are No 2 in the world, having lost the last two world championships to America. They will play at the world championships in Japan in April, and are tipped by Mark Coups to win a gold medal. The British men's team is No 4 in the world.

START-UP COSTS:
A set of 12 Pop-lacrosse sticks and balls costs £118.71, including delivery, or you can hire a set for ten weeks for £39.95. No special surface or goals are needed. ELA 0121-773 4423.

A FREE PERSONAL PROFILE WORTH £35 FOR EVERY READER

Exclusively designed for readers of *The Times* by Saville & Holdsworth

Today, as part of our New Year New Career series, *The Times*, in association with Saville & Holdsworth, international leaders in assessing individuals and jobs, gives you a unique opportunity to receive your personal profile absolutely free. An analysis of the three-page questionnaire, which is inserted in today's newspaper, would be worth £35.

Among other things, the assessment could reveal:

- Your strengths and weaknesses
- If you have leadership potential
- Whether you are a decision maker
- If you are a team player
- If you are a problem solver
- How you relate to people

Extracts from a Personal Profile are reproduced below. As well as an expert analysis of important aspects of your personal style which are highlighted under the three

THINKING STYLE

Gaining an understanding of how things function or considering hypothetical ideas are of little interest to you. Not only do you seem at times to not enjoy practical tasks, but you would probably rely on others for innovative solutions. You are liable

RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE

You appear to strike a balance in terms of the way you influence others. As well as being moderately willing to take charge of the work performed by others, you come across as reasonably prepared to gain commitment by persuasion and negotia

FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS

You describe yourself as someone who experiences a high level of general anxiety. However, specific events do not seem to have a major impact on your anxiety level so although you come across as someone who finds it difficult to relax you...

headings, *Thinking Style, Relationships with People and Feelings and Emotions*, you will also receive a chart of your team type.

The world of work is changing fast. There has never been a greater need to understand your strengths in order to fulfil your true potential. This report is likely to predict a good deal

about your behaviour in different situations, helping you to find the right job and make the most of your career choices. A profile of your personal style is one of the most valuable aids used by recruiters, career guidance and management development specialists. With our exclusive offer you can give yourself a head start in the career race.

How to get your FREE Personal Profile

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and send them with the application form right and your completed questionnaire.

*If you want more information about personal profiles from SHL, call 0181 339 2222

THE TIMES
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PERSONAL PROFILE
TOKEN 1

If you did not find a questionnaire inserted in today's paper please call 0171 481 3377. Lines open 9.30am to 3pm.

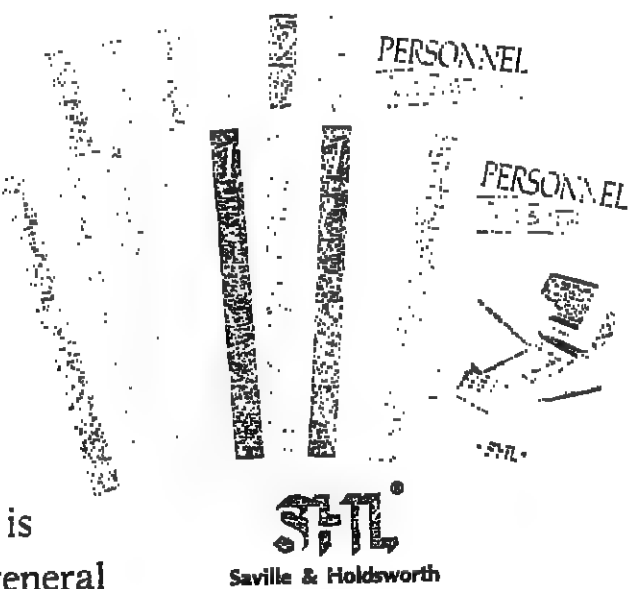


World leaders in asking the right questions

In many roles, effectiveness is as much to do with an individual's personal style as it is to do with his or her ability. By understanding personality, Saville & Holdsworth can more accurately predict how you will fit within particular teams and work environments and how you are likely to cope with different job requirements.

The company, with offices in 30 countries worldwide, provides a range of occupational personality questionnaires and other assessment services to many of *The Times's* top 200 companies, including BT, Ford and Whitbread.

This Personal Profile, which is not normally available to the general public, is one of the UK's most widely used personality questionnaires in the jobs market because it is user friendly and it helps companies to choose the right staff from the start.



PERSONAL PROFILE APPLICATION FORM

When you have completed the questionnaire, attach four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and send them with this completed form to: PCL, Munro Business Centre, Munro Place, Anniesland, Glasgow, G13 2UP to arrive by Friday, February 14, 1997.

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female (please tick)
Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other Initials
Surname
Job Title
Company Name
Company Address
Postcode Tel.

Please return my questionnaire to the following address, if different from company address

It would help us if you would answer these four questions:

1. Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? please tick box
☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+
2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (at least 4 copies during the week)?
3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (1-3 copies or less during the week)?
4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (at least 4 copies a month)?

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive details of further offers from *The Times* or companies carefully selected by Times Newspapers Ltd ☐

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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form

Singapore Airlines
is open

هَكَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

UBS arm offers \$15m forex compensation

FROM PHILIP JONES IN JERSEY

A SUBSIDIARY of Union Bank of Switzerland is to offer compensation to 90 investors who claim to have lost \$26.7 million in foreign exchange deals carried out in Jersey by Robert Young, the trader now facing fraud charges. Cantrade Private Bank Switzerland, the UBS arm that has also been charged with fraud in connection with the deals, is offering to repay the trading losses together with the appropriate interest.

"We are talking of between \$13 million to \$15 million in all," said Johann Bärlocher, Cantrade's managing director. "Both Coopers & Lybrand and KPMG have quantified the investors' actual losses at \$10.5 million and we will add interest from the time when each individual loss was incurred."

Cantrade has never accepted that the losses reached the claimed level of \$26.7 million and denies any legal liability on its part, whether of a civil or a criminal nature.

If the investors accept the compensation they will be asked to assign

their claims to the bank, which in turn may seek to reclaim some of the money from Deloitte & Touche, the accountants whose former partner Alf Williams is said to have audited Mr Young's trading figures, and Mayo Associates, the Geneva investment manager that acted as trustees for the investors.

The level of risk involved is at the heart of civil actions that have been brought by Mayo Associates on behalf of the investors against Cantrade, Deloitte & Touche and Mr Young in Jersey's Royal Court. It is

claimed that Mr Young's foreign exchange deals, carried out between 1988 and 1993, were subject to a strict 10 per cent downside limit but that the bank failed to inform the investors of their massive losses or to stop Mr Young from trading beyond the 10 per cent limit.

Mayo also claims that Mr Williams audited the purported results of Mr Young's dealings and that Deloitte & Touche failed to check the accuracy of Mr Young's stated profits. Both Cantrade and Deloitte & Touche have denied the allegations. Deloitte &

Touche says that Mr Williams merely advised Mr Young on tax matters, that he did not "audit" the trading figures and that Mayo never relied on documents provided by him. Meanwhile Robson Rhodes, forensic accountants, is helping the Jersey police to investigate the losses, which have so far resulted in a total of 98 fraud charges being brought against Mr Young, Mr Williams and Peter Stoneman, Cantrade senior manager. No pleas have yet been entered by the three, or by the bank itself which faces a further 33 fraud charges.

PIA sued by Burns Anderson over ruling

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

BURNS ANDERSON, one of the UK's biggest networks of independent financial advisers, is taking legal action against its regulator, the Personal Investment Authority, over investor claims for losses reaching £5 million.

More than 200 people invested money in the Villa Investments Plan offered by Stead Financial Services, based in Lincolnshire, believing that they were buying shares in a Spanish property venture. They were promised high returns generated from rental income and from an increase in the value of the property itself. The investors believed that they were making legitimate investments, while Burns Anderson claims

that they were buying into a timeshare.

The firm was one of the hundred or so financial advisers that trade under the Burns Anderson umbrella — an organisation of which Sir John Harvey-Jones was once chairman and Phil Cox, now finance director of Asda, was chief executive.

When Stead Financial Services went into receivership two years ago, it was discovered that a number of the shares in the property investment had been sold more than once. Since the losses were uncovered, the investors have been in dispute with Burns Anderson about compensation.

The network claims that the investment falls outside the Financial Services Act, which means that it is not liable for compensation. At the beginning of last year, Everheds, the solicitor acting on behalf of the investors, took the case to the PIA ombudsman, who ruled that there could be a claim to answer.

Burns Anderson took the case to appeal and lost, and now wants the case to be heard in the High Court.

If Burns Anderson loses, it should be able to claim for the losses against its personal indemnity insurance. However, in the past, insurers have been reluctant to pay out on such claims.

The legal tussle is a new chapter in the company's troubled history. Just over four years ago, the Burns Anderson Group, which comprised the companies other than the financial adviser chain, went into receivership after its shares were suspended at a price of 2p. The network was ringfenced from the losses sustained by the group and was acquired by a management buyout team.

Europe set for record sell-offs

A RECORD \$53 billion of privatisations are expected in Europe this year as governments scramble to reduce their debts before monetary union in 1999.

In a report published today, J P Morgan, the US investment bank, predicts that 1997 will be the peak year of the decade for privatisations. Last year's receipts came to \$45 billion, up from about \$25 billion in 1995, raising the total value of the European privatisation programme to \$230 billion.

Italy is expected to conduct \$20 billion of sales this year, with France second, followed by Spain and Germany.



John Jarvis, left, and David Thomas clinched deals in York and Hull for Jarvis Hotels, with a third deal pending

UK Estates' broker waives victory fee

BY FRASER NELSON

PEEL HUNT, the stockbroker, has agreed to waive the £7,500 victory fee it was going to charge UK Estates after buying 460,000 of its shares to bolster its defence against the hostile bid from Ashquary.

The move takes the vote controlled by those defending the company to 28 per cent, against the 36 per cent that Ashquary claims in support of its £21 million bid. The result will be decided by 1pm today, when the last submissions must be received.

Ashquary said it had heard nothing to refute its claims that the £970,000 administration bill UK Estates had clocked up was exorbitant.

UK Estates responded that the expenses were necessary to

build up its 15-strong property portfolio, which generates an average revenue of £200,000 per site against the £32,300 average generated by Ashquary's 62 properties.

Ashquary has also taken issue with the £530,000 that UK Estates has spent on its employee benefit trust covering ten members, two of them directors. The scheme now accounts for 16 per cent of the faction fighting the bid.

Harry Sproule, chief executive of Ashquary, said: "This is the kind of thing which should horrify shareholders and institutions."

Ashquary is raising £3.5 million through a rights issue, to cover the £1.5 million cost of the bid.

Jarvis pays £16m for Greenfield hotels

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JARVIS HOTELS has bought two hotels in England and exchanged contracts on a third in Scotland, spending a total of £16.22 million in cash.

The three hotels, all freehold properties, were part of Greenfield Holdings, which went into receivership last year. Croft Hotels (1996), a new company, was set up by Coopers & Lybrand of Leeds, the receivers, allowing the hotels to trade as normal.

The hotels being bought by Jarvis, which is led by John Jarvis, chairman and chief executive, and David Thomas, deputy chief executive, are the 90-bedroom Fairfield Manor Hotel in York and the 107-bedroom Grange Park Hotel in Hull. The latter also has a large leisure centre. The pur-

chase of the 62-bedroom Leamouth in Edinburgh depends on the transfer of its licence.

America's Hilton Hotel Corporation (HHC) is expected to announce today in London the purchase of a 5 per cent stake in Ladbroke, owner of Hilton International.

Peter George, chief executive of Ladbroke and Steve Bollenbach, the head of HHC, are expected to take seats on the board of each others' company.

They are also expected to give the first details of their worldwide alliance since the announcement last August that the US and British versions of the Hilton brand are to be reunited after more than 30 years apart.

Capital idea that could force City to change its tune on diversification

Radio station provides food for thought for Jon Ashworth and Martin Waller

Tough times lie ahead for Capital Radio, Britain's biggest commercial radio station. On Thursday it will learn whether it has been successful in its bid for a new FM licence. But with 24 rivals, Capital's chances are not rated highly.

A new Capital headquarters opened last week in London's Leicester Square. DJs long banished to the Euston Tower face the prospect of "live" shows with celebrities in the Capital Radio Café, the first of many outlets planned under the Capital banner.

Work is progressing on a new record label and there is an investment in a Bombay radio station.

Capital's ambitions for the new FM franchise tax the minds of Richard Eyre, Capital's managing director, and Richard Park, who as director of programmes, is instrumental in creating the station's identity. Park says the FM application will serve as an important test for the Broadcasting Bill, which allows for two FM channels from the same station in one city.

The aim is to run Capital Gold — currently on AM with a "golden oldies" and sport format — alongside Capital FM. Mr Park says: "If they're going to put items like that in the Broadcasting Bill, then surely there must be some sort of chance that we will succeed. I can't see why you should push open a door without letting anyone go through it." If successful, Capital hopes to be on air in its new format from March.

The decision to move to Leicester Square was taken 18 months ago. "We came up with the notion that a Radio Café underneath our premises might work very well," said Mr Park. "We have a lot of stars and celebrities using Capital all the time. It's very nice for them to come and have a bit of lunch with us and meet some of their public."

However, the City was less enthusiastic when, in November, Capital unveiled its agreed £57 million cash bid for My Kinda Town, which runs themed restaurants such as Henry J Bean, The Chicago Pizza Pie Factory and The Chicago Rib Shack.

Mr Eyre, for his part, admits to feeling a little

bruised by the reaction — the shares fell on the news — but says: "Having had people throw every argument they can think of at me for the past month, I emerged from the experience thinking the logic of the deal was even more watertight than when I went into it."

But where is the logic of a radio station running a chain of restaurants? This is not the 1980s, when diversification was the name of the game and the City would back its favourite entrepreneurs for every single bizarre and unrelated venture that took their fancy.

The Radio Café, with its live studio format, is one of two main justifications for the deal. Mr Eyre says: "We need to perfect the formula in London in order to have something that we know works to open elsewhere. We're already looking at property near other radio stations, and other radio groups are approaching us."

My Kinda Town has the management contract to operate the Radio Café, and takes a share of the profits. Birmingham is the obvious next destination, to link with Capital's BRMB station there, and other stations in Kent, Sussex and Hampshire should also be suitable.

But the main growth could come from overseas, perhaps in the US with its plethora of local stations. In the UK, My Kinda Town would operate as the franchiser, finding local operators to run the restaurants, a process the company is already well versed at.

The second opportunity to cross-promote between the two will see the Pizza and Rib restaurants, for example, hosting live concerts that are heavily advertised on Capital's local stations "without taking any goodwill out of the account", as Mr Eyre puts it. He means that to use radio to push unrelated products risks damaging the station's reputation. But people are already used to planning their entertainment based on what they hear on the radio.

"I expected that the City would take time to accustom itself to the deal," he said. "For the most part, it has. There have just been one or two comments that have stung, but they have mainly come from journalists rather than institutions."

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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Independence is safer route

There are four possible reasons for the higher yields on UK bonds compared with those of putative EMU members. First, UK economic growth in both nominal and real terms is stronger than in continental Europe. Consequently our output gap is smaller and so we face an earlier and more sustained tightening of monetary policy than the rest of Europe. Secondly, as continental countries scramble to qualify for EMU their fiscal policies are generally tighter than in the UK. Thirdly, the impending change of UK government may mean there is an excessive political risk premium attached to gilts. Finally, the markets may perceive the EMU policy regime will be more "credible" than that of an independent UK.

UK bond yields would be lower if the UK joined EMU. However this does not establish the case for EMU membership. That depends on why EMU membership causes UK yields to fall.

One risk is that the pursuit

of EMU membership results in policies that lead to slower growth and/or higher inflation. There is no point in having lower growth to achieve lower yields. The point of lower yields is to enhance growth. At the very least the UK should wait until its economic cycle is back in sync with the rest of Europe. However, the problem may be more fundamental, relating to the undesirability of linking the UK economic policy and performance more closely to that in Europe over a long period of time. Europe appears to have more deep-seated structural fiscal problems than the UK.

Those relate to both its high levels of government debt and greater unfunded pension liabilities. These problems will

impose constraints on European fiscal policy for decades to come. The resultant fiscal policy may not be appropriate or desirable for the UK. At the margin the sustainable long-term growth rate of the UK may be faster outside EMU than inside.

There is also a question mark against the long-term credibility of the euro vis-à-vis sterling. The euro will not in its initial stages be a quasi-mark any more than the European Central Bank (ECB) will be a quasi-Bundesbank with a 50-year track record. The ECB will have to establish its credibility.

European Monetary Institute (EMI) officials have indicated that it may be necessary initially to run an overly tight or inflexible monetary policy in the ECB's early years to establish the euro's hard currency status.

The problem with the likely policy regime in the early days of EMU is that it may not only prove inappropriate but may prove to be unsustainable. There are already signs of "austerity fatigue" in Europe. One route to easing these tensions will be fiscal slippage. Once countries have joined the EMU club it may be difficult to enforce the sanctions of the "stability pact", especially if a large group of countries are finding the fiscal constraints of EMU difficult to live with. At face value there ought to be a higher fiscal risk premium attached to euro yields than independent gilt yields.

An alternative or complementary way to deal with the unsustainability of the early EMU regime may be a looser monetary policy and currency depreciation. Again the risks of such a policy mix should attach at least as high a risk premium to euro yields as to independent gilt yields. Given that European fiscal policy will also be tight, there is a distinct danger that at the inception of EMU the overall stance of macro policy will be too tight in relation to the output gaps seen in the European economy.

Advocates would regard this as the short-term price of long-term credibility. However there would seem to be little benefit to the UK in linking itself to this inappropriate policy regime. At the very least it may be better to wait to see if credibility is established and EMU is sustainable.

As things stand there is no case for early entry to a euro policy regime both because the euro lacks track record and credibility, and because the euro policy regime is unlikely to be appropriate to the current needs of the UK economy. It is not even clear that there is a long-term case for membership. A UK policy regime based on an independent inflation target and a clear fiscal framework may be at least as credible as that in the euro.

Independence also avoids the risks to growth associated with pursuit of EMU membership. The price may be higher gilt yields but, if the result is higher growth and the avoidance of European policy confusion, it will be a price well worth paying.

DOUG JONES
Gartmore Investment Management

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Greece	403	408
Hong Kong	10.71	10.71
India	1.27	0.99
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THE TIMES

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See the 36-page Appointments section this Thursday in The Times.

http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES



Some Holocaust survivors say Swiss banks were an extension of the Nazi regime, taking money from Jews who fled or, as depicted in *Schindler's List*, were sent to death camps

Swiss culture of banking secrecy threatened by Nazi gold legacy

Secrecy is to Switzerland's banks what snow is to its tourism industry. Without it, there would be no special selling point. The country's strict banking laws have made it the favourite deposit box of rogues from around the world. The four-inch-thick book of law commentaries, written in 1934, lists 112 ways in which banking secrecy can be violated. Merely asking a bank employee to reveal certain information is already a criminal offence. And punishment at the hands of the supposedly liberal Swiss is harsh.

These endangering Zurich's future as a financial centre could face six months in prison or a fine of Sfr50,000 (£21,000). Unsurprisingly, there are few offenders. There have been only two cases in the 1990s, according to the Swiss banking commission, which oversees the workings of 400 banks. One bank official was fined last year. He had confirmed an account statement over the phone to a caller who already held a paper copy.

This Alpine idyll has now been disturbed by a political timebomb that has been ticking for more than 50 years. Revelations about Nazi gold hidden in Swiss bank vaults rocked the nation. The allegations made by Jewish groups were robustly denied last year. But ill-tempered comments from Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, the Swiss President, this month finally shattered the posture of studied calm. In a bid to rescue their reputation, Swiss bankers will now try to appease aggrieved Holocaust survivors with a payoff. This may not be enough to preserve the cozy arrangements that made them millions. Too little, too late, say victims of the Nazis. The row is threatening to undermine centuries of wealth creation and is set to destroy the culture of secrecy.

As a first conciliatory gesture, the Government last week offered to "put

Holocaust survivors want more than a payoff. They are pushing for the law to be changed. Oliver August reports

to a proper use" the Sfr40 million so far found in dormant bank accounts. An official statement said: "The Federal Council is ready to immediately take up discussions with the banks and the interested organisations regarding the creation of a fund in favour of Holocaust victims and their descendants." A few weeks ago such a statement would have been unthinkable.

The banks have already signalled approval. But the Government insisted that the fund will not be an admission that Switzerland and its secretive financial institutions "profited cynically from the war". That is how Holocaust survivors describe the Swiss banks' behaviour. The banks gladly took money and gold both from the looting Nazis and the fleeing Jews, and kept it.

Jewish groups rejected the Government's limited offer and sent the Swiss stock market reeling. Avraham Burg, the chairman of the Jewish Agency, said: "The Swiss are again playing with words, attacking marginal issues and ignoring the central issues. They're trying to buy us with money that's not theirs." Instead of the gratitude that Swiss bankers had expected, they were confronted with a new threat. Jews from Jerusalem to New York might boycott Swiss banks. Mr Burg said: "As for now, the partial boycott was suggested — economic disincentive. We'll come with our recommendation for action

within four weeks." In response to this announcement Swiss bank shares plummeted last Monday.

The Holocaust victims want more than a payoff. They are pressing for rule changes in the Swiss banking system, which they say acted as an extension of the Nazi regime. Their fight has gained many powerful supporters. They include the World Jewish Congress and Al D'Amato, the New York senator who relies heavily

on the Jewish vote. Mr D'Amato, who was Bob Dole's presidential campaign treasurer, said: "Swiss banks have investigated themselves, saying trust us. But we don't trust them." He has proposed the idea of a Truth Commission along South African lines. Bankers involved would be granted limited immunity.

Mr D'Amato employs ten full-time Nazi gold researchers. The office of his chief of staff, Greg Rickman, even acts



Senator Al D'Amato is campaigning on behalf of Jews

as a war room. He has been investigating Jewish claims since last May and was behind the Senate committee hearing on Nazi gold that first put Swiss banks in the dock.

Mr Rickman is extremely critical of the Swiss response to the Jewish claims. The Swiss ombudsman who deals with individual cases has made little difference, according to him. Cases are either rejected straight away or sent on to the banks, which show

little enthusiasm for investigating them. He said: "They have put their heads in the sand, wishing the whole issue will just go away. They have known about it for 50 years, but now they say they need five years to investigate. They thought they could get away with it — that's reprehensible."

Mr Rickman is lobbying to lift the secrecy laws. The Swiss parliament has approved a small amendment to bank legislation. But he wants to terminate the

extremely damaging for the banks. Even if all the calls for compensation and rule changes remained unsuccessful, the public relations battle at least seems lost.

Nazi gold has turned into a Swiss Brenn Spar. The row pits German-speakers with a talent for secrecy and thorough planning against Jewish underdogs. Unlike 50 years ago, the German-speakers are Swiss. But the parallels, admittedly limited, have disturbing overtones.

To limit the damage, Swiss banks in co-operation with their Government have now begun a diplomatic counter-offensive. Staff at the London offices of Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation receive regular briefings on how to deal with inquiries about Nazi gold. Non-Swiss employees at UBS were sent a memo that "should give you the necessary background for discussions with clients, other employees, and your friends and relatives."

UBS felt it necessary to deny specifically that it held Hitler's bank account. It described such allegations as "a rumour of a possibility", which was apparently dispelled by a US Government investigation in 1944 and 1945. But the banks have to acknowledge that fast-talking will not be enough. The memo said: "A large PR campaign is not appropriate. We are aware that the discussions and accusations have a negative impact on our image."

Instead of public proclamations of innocence, the Swiss have therefore reached for a tool much more in keeping with their national character. They created a committee to look into the affair — defence through diplomacy. But despite all their efforts, Swiss bankers have yet to escape the legacy of their opportunistic war-time predecessors. Guilt by association is almost impossible to disprove.

Pakistan and the prize peacocks

NO SOONER has Iain Dale successfully fought off his neighbour in her bid to banish his prize pair of peacocks, than the chairman of the DIT's Southern Asian Advisory Group is off to Pakistan for the last leg of John Major's Asian tour.

Before leaving his sleepy home village in Yorkshire, the chairman of TR Pacific Investment Trust took, on his neighbour, after she brought a case complaining that his birds had damaged her car and garden. Eventually, the case was dismissed through lack of evidence.

On a three-day mission with Sir Robert Wade Geary of BZW, Bob Ayling of British Airways, Lord Paul, of Caparo Group, and Christopher Fay, of Shell UK, Dale has one hour free today to do exactly as he chooses.

Two halves

PITY Mark Edwards, torn between two clients. The director of Buchanan Communications watched Arsenal and Sunderland FC, both his clients,



Tails up: Iain Dale at Heathrow Airport before his departure as part of the mission to the Indian sub-continent

ent, tackle it out at Roker Park on Saturday. A guest of Bob Murray, chairman of Sunderland FC, Edwards was less than a yard away from David Dein, Arsenal's deputy chairman. "My professional loyalties were divided but, in my heart, there's only one club," he said. Arsenal lost 1-0.

Knight and day

RELIEF — Angela Knight is fit and well after an operation on her knee. A tribute to the NHS. Knight was in and out in a day. All set with a prize pair of pins for the start of a new parliamentary term today, the energetic Treasury

minister managed to squeeze in her annual skiing holiday before the operation.

Beefy on the menu

MORE depressing news for the IoD, after 14 rebel employees broke away to set up Caspian Publishing. The merry

team of entrepreneurs are now organising a series of dinners with leading figures from the world of business, politics and sport. Set up in association with cricketer Bob Willis, chairman of the National Sporting Club — which until recently hosted a series of sporting lunches and din-

ners with the IoD — the black-tie events will be held at the Hyde Park Hilton for up to a thousand guests. Ian Botham will speak at the first "Legendary Dinner" on May 19. Archie Norman and Bob Ayling are said to have been approached. John Major, Tony Blair, and Nigel Lawson, are among the names put forward from the world of politics. A promotion for the new venture will appear in *Real Business*, Caspian's alternative to the IoD's *Director* magazine.

Hot line

EMPLOYEES at Ashway were kept busy last week phoning UK Estates' shareholders in a bid to curry favour before today's deadline on the takeover vote. Guess who was top of Ashway's list? Frank Ridge, a company secretary at UK Estates. He declined.

OH, *Cigarette*: The zealous PR company quickly distributed its client *Hi-Tec Sports* preliminary results. What a shame they were the previous year's figures.

MORAG PRESTON

It's murder in suburbia

Book at Bedtime: The Wimbledon Poisoner. Radio 4, 10.45pm.

The start of a ten-part adaptation of the classic Nigel Williams black comedy, abridged by Georgina Brown and read by David Troughton. This is more evidence that *Book at Bedtime* is showing great sureness of touch with its book selection, though wives may find themselves less in agreement with that proposition than husbands. But the story of Henry Farr, an ideal husband until he decides to murder his wife, is of course mere fiction. And there is much more to the story than the central thread, for this is really a tale of the dark forces at work in suburbia. The underlying relish in Troughton's delivery drags every comic nuance from the words, chosen by Williams with surgical precision.

EBU Early Music Series. Radio 3, 7.30pm.

As with other manifestations of Euro unity, there are plenty of sceptics on the matter of the European Broadcasting Union. "What is it?" and "why is it?" are among the frequently asked questions, but at least nobody at the EBU is trying to promote a single note at the expense of all the others. This live concert from St Laurence Cathedral in Lugano represents the start of an EBU initiative and there will be a series of concerts from around Europe each year. Tonight's features Monteverdi, set in the context of vespers for the feast of St Laurence. Diego Pasolis conducts the Swiss Radio Choir, Sonatori della Gioiosa Marca and Concerto Palatino. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.30 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 John Peel's Classic Rock 1 Sessions: Word Up! 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 12.00 Claire Sturgess 4.00am: Steve Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Steve Wright at the Movies 7.30 Malcolm Jaycar 8.00 Big Band Special 8.02 Humphrey Littleson 10.00 No Minor Chords 10.45 Andy Partridge from his autobiography (S4) 10.50 The Jamsons 12.00am Adrian Frighen 9.00 Steve Madden

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes 6.30 Rising Pressure 6.35 The Morning with Carolyn Quinn 12.00 Midday with Melvyn 12.30 Sports 2.00 News 2.45 Rascals on Five, includes at 3.45 Evening News 4.00 John Inverleslie Nationwide 7.00 News - Extra 7.30 Greatest Novels' path to glory in 1959 8.05 European Football Show, with Danny Oldroyd in Barcelona 10.05 NewsTalk, with Jeremy Vine 11.00 Night Edna, with Lucy Thorpe 12.00am After Hours with Linda McDermott and Tim Gouny 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Stevie Watt 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Deley 7.00 Mark Day's Sportzone 10.05 James White 1.00am Mike Dixon

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, includes Puccini (The Barber of Seville), The Fairy Queen, Rossini (The Barber of Seville), Liszt (Waltz from Gounod's Faust) 9.00 Morning Collection: Catriona Young begins a series of Mendelssohn piano concertos 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nick Morgan, includes Stravinsky (Pastorale), Beethoven (Piano Sonata in D, Op 28, Pastorale), Vivaldi (Concerto in D, RVMS, La, pastorella) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Maurice Ravel 1.00pm News: BBC Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Catherine Wyn-Rogers, soprano, Malcolm Martineau, piano, includes Brahms (All dem Kirchhof), Sperrachies Lied: Unbewegte, Jesus Lohr, Firdi (Fear No More the Heat of the Sun), Horner (Under the Greenwood Tree) 2.00 From the Press, Christine Brewer, soprano, Trinity College of Music Chamber Choir, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Mark Elder

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. 5.00am Euro Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 On the Shelf 7.30 The Village Choir Show 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 International Question Time 8.05 World Business Report 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 On the Shelf 11.30 Omnibus 12.00pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.05 Sport 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Omnibus 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.30 Quote, Unquote 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack 8.05 World Business Report 8.10 Britain Today 9.30 Sound Business 9.45 The Brain 10.30 World Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Talk Five 11.15 Record News 11.30 Multitrack 12.00am Classical Concerts 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Omnibus 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian Feature 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Sally Patterson 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Nancy Kerr 12.00 Susan Harman 1.00pm Lunchtime Concert, Mozart (Piano Concerto No 21) 3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.00 Newswatch 7.00 Localist (Moby Score in D major) 7.00 Celebrity Choice: Hank Marvin (1) 8.00 Evening Concert, Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue, 1928) 10.00 World Business Report 10.05 Nightly News 10.10am Michael McIntyre, includes No-time, 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRILE RADIO

4.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dore 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks 9.00 Mark Morris 1.00am 2.00am Nigel Las Rose

RADIO 4

8.00am On Air, includes Puccini (The Barber of Seville), The Fairy Queen, Rossini (The Barber of Seville), Liszt (Waltz from Gounod's Faust) 9.00 Morning Collection: Catriona Young begins a series of Mendelssohn piano concertos 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Nick Morgan, includes Stravinsky (Pastorale), Beethoven (Piano Sonata in D, Op 28, Pastorale), Vivaldi (Concerto in D, RVMS, La, pastorella) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Maurice Ravel 1.00pm News: BBC Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Catherine Wyn-Rogers, soprano, Malcolm Martineau, piano, includes Brahms (All dem Kirchhof), Sperrachies Lied: Unbewegte, Jesus Lohr, Firdi (Fear No More the Heat of the Sun), Horner (Under the Greenwood Tree) 2.00 From the Press, Christine Brewer, soprano, Trinity College of Music Chamber Choir, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Mark Elder

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping 6.00 News 6.30 Six O'Clock News 6.50 Just a Minute (1) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (1) 7.45 The Monday Play: Jack - A Night on the Town with John Barrymore, by Nicol Williamson and Leslie Maphia. A tribute to the legendary Barrymore (1) 8.15 The View from Here. Hermione Lee talks to Doris Lessing about how her work has developed (1/5) (1) 8.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 8.55 9.00 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Wimbledon Poisoner. See Choice (1/4) 11.00 Discursive Excursions (FM). High altitude mountainous describe their experiences (2/3) (1) 11.00 Education Matters (LW) 11.30 Rant (FM). Lucy Farnham's, a hard-hitting sitcom (1) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Show: A Spell of O'Brien Winter (4/5) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.3. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.9-92.0. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.5. LW 198. MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRILE RADIO, FM 105.6. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1069. Television and radio. Reprints compiled by Peter Dore, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McKinnon

I NEEDED TO KEEP MY HANDS BUSY...



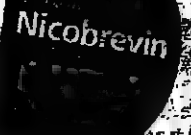
AFTER GIVING UP SMOKING...



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هكذا من الأصل

Having a ball with Shirley and the Saxons

First, a plea. Could somebody arrange for Shirley Bassey to be 60 every Saturday night? Happy Birthday Shirley (TV) was delicious and far too good to be limited to a one-off. If the Queen can have two birthdays, surely Shirley is good for half a dozen. My one regret was that the camp complexities of *Slave to the Rhythm* — lots of slaves and Bassey's very own brand of rhythm — meant the song had to be pre-recorded and therefore couldn't include cutaway shots of the celebrity audience. Shame, I'd love to know what Michael Heseltine and John Prescott made of the choreography.

Now, on with the serious business. Dramatising the 12th century presents programme-makers with two enormous obstacles. The first is lampoon — *Monty Python*, *The Two Ronnies*, even early *Blackadder* — they and others have all had a satirical pop at the 1100s, so

that it is almost impossible to take the century seriously. Last night, as *At the Heart of the Matter* (BBC1), I was constantly reminded of *Romney* Barker. If this was the future of the Saxon nation, no wonder the Normans were looking smug.

The other problem for the 12th century is Lincoln: green. If a drama begins with a caption reminding you that Richard the Lionheart is in an Austrian prison while his brother John is plotting to seize the English throne, what do most people think they are in for? *William Tell* last night we also had a forest, a fat friar and a very fair maiden, Maid Marion, I presume. Nope, the lady Rowena.


The added complexity is that, as I recall, *At the Heart of the Matter* was eventually turned into *Robin Hood*. But we can sort that out when we get there. Last night it was all about the

banquet without giggling. Helped by restrained performances from James Cosmo as Cedric, Ivanhoe's father, and Claran Hinds, as Sir Brian de Bois-Guilbert, it just about managed it. Touch and go amid the wassailing, though.

Having spent most of the episode disguised as a pilgrim, Steven Waddington has yet to make his mark in the title role, but his romantic dilemma is shaping up nicely. The battle of the plains will be between Victoria Smurfts beautiful but occasionally Irish-sounding Rowena and Susan Lynch's beautiful and not at all Irish-sounding Rebecca. Some crusaders have all the luck.

Nothing much changed, from a female point of view, over the next 750 years. Lady Rowena and Agnes Conway, the character at the pulsating heart of Catherine Cookson's *The Wingless Bird*

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

(ITV, last night), have a lot in common. For just as Cedric was keen to be shot of his spirited ward, so Arthur Conan, sweet-maker and drunken philanthropist, was anxious to get his independent-minded daughter married off. "I'm not saying you're plain, but it's your attitude to men — you're not getting any younger," Agnes is 22. Agnes, of course, is not plain

either. Played by Claire Skinner, she's pretty enough to turn the head of any rich young man who might wander into her father's sweatshop in search of sugar mice. Enter Charles Farrier (Edward Atterton) and enter a pre-First-World-War love story just about charming enough to make up for dialogue that made me wince at times, and sets and locations straight out of Christmas cards.

It was all so laboured, "Per'north" inquired Agnes as two urchins haggled over the tollie crisp. "Hap'north," they decided, ending with two beautifully wrapped paper cones and "Merry Christmas" all round. With that, our heroine was off down the not very dangerous-looking quays to inform the Feltons that her father had just taken a shovel to young Robbie. He'd been seeing Jessie, Agnes's younger and sillier sister. Seeing? Do I have to say more?

Women's rights and the benefits of contraception were the moral messages rammed home, especially by Farrier's splendid Aunt Nettle (Moiré Redmond), who dropped in from Paris to warn her pregnant niece about the dangers of "producing children like piglets" and her uniformed nephew about what was coming next: "War, dear boy, war."

The changes to Friday night are so considerable that it is going to take a couple of weeks to decide whether it still constitutes a compulsory night. On paper *Wilderness Walks* (BBC2) looked a good variation on therapeutic television, with Cameron McNeish taking a celebrity on a long and exhausting walk and having a bit of a chat on the way. In practice, it comes down to whether you want to be stuck halfway up Ben MacDui with the likes of Chris Brasher or not. Close call. On Channel 4, *Dressing for*

Breakfast returned, with Beatie Edney looking rather more soignée than she did before and Holly Aird considerably more pregnant. Barring a rather ancient joke about Michael Bolton, Stephanie Calman's script was well up to standard, but more fun was to be had spotting the assorted attempts to conceal Aird's bump — longline jackets, floor-length coats and a casually clutched cushion all played their part. Next week, tune in to watch her play a lot of scenes from behind a high-backed chair.

Finally, a scream of triumph marked the return of a revamped and now perfectly broadcastable *The Girlie Show* (Channel 4). "I can do the two kiks," shrieked Sara Cox, as she played a kiss on each cheek of an unsuspecting Tara Palmer-Tomkinson. Well, not quite: real "it" girls don't leave messy mouth-marks on the cheeks of their interviewees. Unless, of course, it's a declaration of war.

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST** (70058)
- 7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS** (75416)
- 8.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA** (492145)
- 9.20am ALL OVER THE SHOP** (8942619)
- 9.45 KILROY** (1069771)
- 10.30am CANT COOK, WON'T COOK** (27705)
- 11.00am NEWS** (1) and weather (8382023)
- 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW** (814400)
- 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE** (821690)
- 12.00am NEWS** (1) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (7950042)
- 12.05pm THE ALPHABET GAME** New celebrity word game hosted by Andrew O'Connor (8188229)
- 12.30pm GOING FOR A SONG** (8244451)
- 12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW** (27419348)
- 1.00 NEWS** (1) and weather (78503)
- 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS** (44918042)
- 1.40 NEIGHBOURS** (1) (7482613)
- 2.05 FILM: Miracle in the Wilderness** (1991) Kris Kristofferson as a retired US Cavalry soldier, whose idyllic life is shattered when a vengeful Indian chief takes him and his family hostage. Directed by Kevin James Dobson. (3165503)
- 3.30 PLAYBOY** (829400) 3.50 Pingu (2614819) 4.00 Good Girl Boy (1785416) 4.30 Record Breakers Goal (782313) 5.00 Newsworld (1) (7181067) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (823394)
- 5.35 NEIGHBOURS** (1) (7412042)
- 6.00 NEWS** (1) and weather (451)
- 6.30 NEWSOUTH SOUTH EAST** (961)
- 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE** (1) (4139)
- 7.30 WATCHDOG: Face Value** Alice takes a look at fashion and beauty issues. Includes Tara Palmer-Tomkinson on how to start a fashion trend (1) (145)
- 8.00 EASTENDERS** Tony is forced to come to a compromise (1) (5787)
- 8.30 THE BRITISH EMPIRE** Plans for a staff review receive a heated reaction (1) (2394)
- 9.00 NEWS** (1) and weather (7874)
- 9.30 PANORAMA** In the first of two, Steve Bradshaw investigates the alarming increase in drug-related crime (1) (822935)
- 10.10 RUBY WAX'S GIRL TALK** Compilation featuring some of Mike Wax's most memorable interviews, including Goldie Hawn, the Duchess of York and Pamela Anderson (1) (7) (508042)
- 10.40 SILENT WITNESS** (1) (7) (698435) **WALKS: 10.40 The State** (574130) 11.40 Silent Witness (795232) 12.25am FILM: Dark of the Sun (88424) 2.10 News
- 11.30 FILM 97 WITH BARRY NORMAN** Including *That Thing You Do!*, *The Preacher's Wife*, *Ransom* and *The Ghost and the Darkness* (1) (51110)
- 12.00 FILM: Dark of the Sun** (1968) starring Rod Taylor and Kay Medford. A mercenary is lured with diamonds through war-torn West Africa in the 1960s. Directed by Jack Cardiff (831355)
- 1.40am Weather** (2485494)

- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Necessity of History** (4290771) 6.25 History: Writing and Unwriting Testimony (4882706) 6.50 An Historian at Work (4450435) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (168584) 7.30 Help! It's the Hair Bunch (277861) 7.55 Blue Peter (1) (2572410) 8.20 Pingu (317400) 8.25 Hazy Jeremy (8507708) 8.35 Leslie (3549771) 9.00 Daytime on Two: TV on the Road (23936) 9.30 Pathways of Belief (8383313) 9.45 Technology Starts (8383886) 10.00 Playdays (84688) 10.30 Landmarks (5652265) 10.50 Look and Read (5778232) 11.10 Zog Zag (517416) 11.30 Chatterbox (3481) 12.00 Testament: The Bible in Animation (36400) 12.30pm Working Lunch (83042) 1.00 History File (8215955) 1.20 Games: Globlo (8977323) 1.25 Landmarks (5652265) 1.45 Storyline (4003818) 2.00 Pingu (317400) 2.05 Hazy Jeremy (8507708)
- 2.10 FILM: Conquered** (1945, b/w) with Dick Powell and Walter Slezak. A former RAF pilot crosses Canada in search of the Nazi collaborator responsible for his wife's death. Directed by Edward Dmytryk (767232)
- 3.55 NEWS** (1) and weather (2804232)
- 4.00 TOPIC: THE DAY** (574) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (18) 5.00 Esther (8145) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (110)
- 5.55 SPACE PRESENTS** (1) (7) (824139)
- 6.05 AS-SEEN ON TV** (1) (826340)
- 6.30 PRESENTS: THE COMMUNIST** — GREAT LEAP — The account of the Communist revolution which swept China in 1949 (1) (8274)
- 8.00 LOCAL HEROES** Adam Hart-Davis arrives in Scotland and discovers how Alexander Beil invented the first fax machine in the 1940s, how a Glasgow man produced the first waterproofer, and how a woman about a hedge-powered engine (1) (4229)
- 8.30 UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE** West of England University v Surrey University (1) (8836)
- 9.00 FILM: Betrayal of Trust** (1993) starring Judith Light and Judd Hirsch. When an aspiring nightclub singer is raped by her psychiatrist, she reports the incident to the police, but faces an uphill struggle in her pursuit of truth and justice. Directed by George Catterall (8145)
- 10.30 NEWSNIGHT** (1) (750394)

Collectors' Lot Channel 4, 3.30pm

This new series on collecting is certainly confident of finding enough material. Otherwise it would not be going out on four consecutive afternoons each week. With Sue Cook as host, the show claims to appeal to all levels of collecting, though the emphasis is on the less exalted end of the hobby. Those who patronise car boot sales may find more of interest than devotees of the posh auction houses. The magazine format allows for a diversity of short items, and the opening programme features Gillian Clarke, wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, displaying her expertise on quilts, a man who collects trade union badges and a Devon toy museum. There is practical advice as well. If you have ever gone into an antique shop and been too timid to bid down the price, David Stanford tells you how.

Blues and Twos ITV, 8.30pm

The cameras follow paramedics Dave Sullivan and Leigh Thompson's hectic nights and calmer days patrolling the streets of Liverpool. Sullivan is the old hand, with 20 years' experience. Thompson, a dancer before she joined the ambulance service, has been in the job only eight months. The dreaded Friday evening shift throws up a woman in a car with a broken neck, a man in a truck and a man stabbed by a gang of youths after trying to find a friend. As in previous series of *Blues and Twos*, the accent is on professionals doing their best in difficult circumstances. For ambulance crews, comforting and reassuring patients is as important as giving medical attention. Despite her inexperience, Thompson scores highly in both areas. The other emergency services, police and firefighters, will feature in future programmes.

McCallum: Sacrifice ITV, 9.00pm

Goodness knows why a drama made by Scottish Television should be set in the City of London, though its star, John Hannah, is very much a Scot and the show has a Tigger-like dourness. As Hannah's anonymous hero is a forensic scientist, that he is not as cold and gruesome as the BBC's equivalent, *Silent Witness*, which returns next month. The first of the two-part stories sees our man called in to investigate the death of a Jewish baker. It is that good old standby, a murder dressed up to look like an accident, though there is a puzzling shortage of likely culprits. Steve Hepburn's script runs the gamut of police procedure without breaking any moulds but offers efficiently crafted entertainment for those who do not mind their drama a little glum.

Dark Sides: The Awakening Channel 4, 9.00pm

Science fiction stories are usually about the future or the present. This one breaks the convention by being set in the early 1960s. We are in Washington, where John F. Kennedy has just taken over as President. John (Eric Close) and Kimberly (Megan Ward) are a bright young couple who align themselves on the Kennedy New Frontier, he as aide to the President, she in the office of the First Lady. But John has an unexpected career move which takes him into a creepy world of UFOs, alien forces and government cover-ups. Along the way much of the history of the 1960s is rewritten, from the Kennedy assassination to the space programme and the Vietnam War. If Close and Ward make somewhat rapid leads, the mixture of real events and scriptwriters' invention promises an intriguing series.

As HTV West except:

12.55pm 1.25 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4834868)

1.50 BLUE HEELERS (8271313)

2.50-3.20 HIGH ROAD (8364228)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8082110)

5.55-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (797042)

11.30 NEW YORK NEWS (265416)

1.15am LATE AND LOUD (8794191)

2.20 REAL STORIES OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL (4271735)

2.45 FILM: VENGEANCE (947559)

4.30 CENTRAL JOBBINDER '97 (1507004)

5.20 ASIAN EYE (548424)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 GARDENERS' DIARY (4834868)

1.50 BRIEF ENCOUNTERS (74826771)

2.20 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (1845110)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8082110)

5.55-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (48787)

10.30 WESTCOUNTRY NEWS (149394)

10.45 NASH BRIDGES (234771)

11.40 PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H (442023)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4834868)

1.50 GETAWAYS (74826771)

2.20-3.20 BLUE HEELERS (1845110)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (8082110)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (357)

6.30-7.00 COUNTRY WAYS (329)

10.30 MERIDIAN NEWS AND WEATHER (149394)

10.45 NASH BRIDGES (234771)

11.40 PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H (442023)

5.00am FREESCREEN (71172)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.15pm ANGLIA AIR WATCH (7031961)

12.55-1.25 CROSSWORDS (4834868)

1.50 MURDER, SHE WROTE (8271313)

2.50-3.20 GARDENS WITHOUT BORDERS (8394228)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (8082110)

5.55-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (797042)

6.25-7.00 ANGLIA AIR WATCH (557936)

10.30 ANGLIA NEWS AND WEATHER (149394)

10.45 NASH BRIDGES (234771)

11.40 HIGHLANDER (442023)

SAC

Starts: 6.00am SESAME STREET (90868)

7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (92226) 9.00 BEWITCHED (14232) 12.00 RIGHT TO REPLY (38568) (181042) 12.30 MADE EARLIER (38568) (58110) 1.00 SLOT MEITHRIN (88313) 1.30 THE MIRROR CRACK'D (61951) 2.30 FRANCES BISSSEL'S WEST COUNTRY KITCHEN (435) 4.00 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (482) 4.30 BETJEMAN REVISITED (226) 5.00 NEWSDOCTOR (128874) 6.05 HENO (417023) 6.35 GAIL AIR AUR (485416) 7.00 POBOL Y CWM (61232) 7.25 Y BYD AIR BEDWAD (82481) 8.00 BACHA H'U NEVER MIND THE NEWSDOCTOR (1235) 9.00 NEVER MIND THE HORRORS (233684) 10.00 SGORIO (2202619) 11.05-1.00am FILM: UNTAMED HEART (795023) 4.00 YSGOLION (8392646)

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday SKY 1**
- 6.00am The Morning Mail** (671995) 9.00 Describing Women (82008) 9.30 Describing Women (82008) 10.00 Another World (82008) 11.00 The Day of Our Lives (1961) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (94841) 1.00pm Oprah (82008) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (82008) 3.00 Jerry Jones (82008) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (10400) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1394) 6.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 7.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 12.00 L.A.P.D. (7855) 12.30 The Lucy Show (8071) 1.00 The Lucy Show (8071)
- SKY 2**
- 7.00am Hercules: The Legendary Journeys** (825436) 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 12.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 1.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 2.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 3.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 4.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 6.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 7.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394) 12.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1394)
- SKY NEWS**
- Weekend news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- SKY MOVIES**
- 6.00am The Double Man** (1887) (54145) 8.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 10.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 12.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 2.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 4.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 6.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 8.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 10.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145) 12.00 The Double Man (1887) (54145)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 4.00pm Deadly Longlegs** (1985) (413116) 6.10 Lawrence of Arabia (1962) (2004841) 10.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 11.45 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 1.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 2.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 3.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 4.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 5.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 6.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 7.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 8.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 9.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 10.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 11.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841) 12.00 The Godfather (1972) (2004841)
- THE DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 5.00am Mickey Mouse Club** (1955) (141325) 7.15 The Little Mermaid (1990) (141325) 8.30 The Little Mermaid (1990) (141325) 9.50 The Little Mermaid (1990) (141325) 11.10 The Little Mermaid (1990) (141325) 12.30 The Little Mermaid (1990) (141325)

- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00pm Rebel Sports** (1995) 12.30pm Mountain Bikes (1995) 1.00pm Golf (1995) 1.30pm Football (1995) 2.00pm Football (1995) 2.30pm Football (1995) 3.00pm Football (1995) 3.30pm Football (1995) 4.00pm Football (1995) 4.30pm Football (1995) 5.00pm Football (1995) 5.30pm Football (1995) 6.00pm Football (1995) 6.30pm Football (1995) 7.00pm Football (1995) 7.30pm Football (1995) 8.00pm Football (1995) 8.30pm Football (1995) 9.00pm Football (1995) 9.30pm Football (1995) 10.00pm Football (1995) 10.30pm Football (1995) 11.00pm Football (1995) 11.30pm Football (1995) 12.00pm Football (1995)
- EUROSPORT**
- 12.00pm Rally Raid** (7055) 8.00 Country Show (1985) 9.00 Live Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 12.00 Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 1.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 2.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 3.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 4.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 5.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 6.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 7.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 8.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 9.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 10.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 11.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418) 12.00pm Tennis: Australian Open (1418)
- GRANADA PLUS**
- 6.00am Kyrion Force** (823348) 6.30 The Kyrion Force (823348) 7.00 The Kyrion Force (823348) 7.30 The Kyrion Force (823348) 8.00 The Kyrion Force (823348) 8.30 The Kyrion Force (823348) 9.00 The Kyrion Force (823348) 9.30 The Kyrion Force (823348) 10.00 The Kyrion Force (823348) 10.30 The Kyrion Force (823348) 11.00 The Kyrion Force (823348) 11.30 The Kyrion Force (823348) 12.00 The Kyrion Force (823348)

Julia Roberts stars in I Love Trouble (Sky Movies, 8.00pm)

Included below and Food and Wine. Includes recipes and ideas from Julia Smith from 12.00-3.00pm Health and Beauty. Includes Natural Health. Includes The Good Life Style Guide.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Ronald Reagan (825229) 5.00 British Prime Ministers (825229) 6.00 British Prime Ministers (825229) 7.00 British Prime Ministers (825229) 8.00 British Prime Ministers (825229) 9.00 British Prime Ministers (825229) 10.00 British Prime Ministers (825229) 11.00 British Prime Ministers (825229) 12.00 British Prime Ministers (825229)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00pm The Doctor (1973) 2.00 The Doctor (1973) 3.00 The Doctor (1973) 4.00 The Doctor (1973) 5.00 The Doctor (1973) 6.00 The Doctor (1973) 7.00 The Doctor (1973) 8.00 The Doctor (1973) 9.00 The Doctor (1973) 10.00 The Doctor (1973) 11.00 The Doctor (1973) 12.00 The Doctor (1973)

UK GOLD

7.00pm Glee Up A Cue (805418) 7.30 Neighbours (810065) 8.00 Crossroads (810065) 8.30 Crossroads (810065) 9.00 Crossroads (810065) 9.30 Crossroads (810065) 10.00 Crossroads (810065) 10.30 Crossroads (810065) 11.00 Crossroads (810065) 11.30 Crossroads (810065) 12.00 Crossroads (810065)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Family Ties (8139) 7.30 Benson (8139) 8.00 Entertainment UK (6477) 8.30 Benson (8139) 9.00 Benson (8139) 9.30 Benson (8139) 10.00 Benson (8139) 10.30 Benson (8139) 11.00 Benson (8139) 11.30 Benson (8139) 12.00 Benson (8139)

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12.00 The Time Tunnel (578292) 1.00pm Remington Steele (871682) 2.00 Departure (871682) 3.00 Departure (871682) 4.00 Departure (871682) 5.00 Departure (871682) 6.00 Departure (871682) 7.00 Departure (871682) 8.00 Departure (871682) 9.00 Departure (871682) 10.00 Departure (871682) 11.00 Departure (871682) 12.00 Departure (871682)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Blockbusters (1978) 5.30 Through the Keyhole (1978) 6.00 The Keyhole (1978) 6.30 The Keyhole (1978) 7.00 The Keyhole (1978) 7.30 The Keyhole (1978) 8.00 The Keyhole (1978) 8.30 The Keyhole (1978) 9.00 The Keyhole (1978) 9.30 The Keyhole (1978) 10.00 The Keyhole (1978) 10.30 The Keyhole (1978) 11.00 The Keyhole (1978) 11.30 The Keyhole (1978) 12.00 The Keyhole (1978)

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7.00am Jagran (4201787) 7.30 Life Style (4201787) 8.00 Life Style (4201787) 8.30 Life Style (4201787) 9.00 Life Style (4201787) 9.30 Life Style (4201787) 10.00 Life Style (4201787) 10.30 Life Style (4201787) 11.00 Life Style (4201787) 11.30 Life Style (4201787) 12.00 Life Style (4201787)

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PERFORMANCE

7.00pm GPR — Live in Session (8986708) 8.00 Amy (8986708) 8.30 Amy (8986708) 9.00 Amy (8986708) 9.30 Amy (8986708) 10.00 Amy (8986708) 10.30 Amy (8986708) 11.00 Amy (8986708) 11.30 Amy (8986708) 12.00 Amy (8986708)

NAZI GOLD 42

The legacy that threatens secrecy in Swiss banking

BUSINESS

PRESSURE 40

Firms fear the force of lobbyists

MONDAY JANUARY 13 1997

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Institute of Directors calls for increase in interest rates

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY directors will today urge the Government and the Bank of England to agree a rise in interest rates this week as their latest evidence from business shows strong economic growth coupled with an increase in inflationary pressures.

The call for higher interest rates, aimed at choking off any resurgence in inflation, comes from the Institute of Directors before the monthly monetary policy meeting between the Treasury and the

Bank on Wednesday. With new unemployment figures the same day expected to show a further fall in jobless benefit claimants and continuing evidence of strong consumer spending, expectation is high that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will agree a further increase in rates.

Political considerations are likely to favour a rise well before a general election, and this week's meeting comes after the Howard Davies, the Deputy Governor, last week restated the Bank's

belief that interest rates will have to go up again.

Based on its latest business opinion survey published today, the free-market Institute of Directors — which, in common with business generally, traditionally favours lower interest rates — suggests that a new rise may now be necessary.

Ruth Lea, IoD policy head, says: "With inflationary pressures building up — albeit gently — we are looking for some modest increases in interest rates this year."

"Moreover, I would recommend, and I expect on balance, a small increase in

base rates after this week's meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England."

New survey evidence today shows employers' demand for temporary workers is at an all-time high, although their need for permanent employees is falling. The clear indication of changes in the UK labour market comes before this week's announcement of the latest unemployment figures. Ministers hope the seasonally adjusted count of unemployed claimants will show a further fall, although privately they accept it is

unlikely to match last month's record drop of 95,800.

New figures from Reed, the recruitment agency, show that demand for temporary staff is at a record high, rising by a third year on year.

Looking at the final quarter of 1996, Reed's temporary index shows an eight-point rise over three months, almost twice higher than the peak of the 1980s economic boom. But despite the climbing demand for temporary workers, employers' needs for permanent staff are falling. The company's permanent index shows a

three-point fall over the quarter — the first drop in the index for two years.

Fund managers are betting on a strong British economy and investing in commercial property while shunning shares in UK companies, a survey released today shows (Sarah Cunningham writes). The majority of those polled in January's Merrill Lynch Gallup survey of UK fund managers expect strong economic growth this year and next. This has influenced their preference for commercial property and small companies, which tend to prosper when growth is strong.

Coach group in Welcome Break bid

By Jason Nisse and Alasdair Murray

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the privatised coach operator, is one of the six shortlisted bidders for Welcome Break, the motorway services business being sold by Granada for an expected £380 million.

The attempt to buy Welcome Break is a radical diversification for National Express, which was sold to its management as a long distance coach operator but has moved into rail and airports since it was floated four years ago. Its recent offer for Birmingham Airport was rejected.

National Express will face stiff competition for Welcome Break, which Granada has to sell by April as part of its deal with the Office of Fair Trading, which allowed it to take over Forte in a £3.9 billion bid last year.

Others shortlisted include an investor group led by Michael Guthrie, the former Mecca chief; Cinven, the venture capitalists; and Whitbread, the leisure company which bid for the business while it was owned by Forte.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, hopes to announce the sale along with some other disposals at the group's annual meeting on January 29. At the meeting Granada will face a share-

holder revolt over its new executive share-incentive scheme, which could see the company's directors double their salaries, and its refusal to reduce the length of contracts for its executive directors to the one year demanded by institutional investors.

Mr Robinson and his fellow executive directors currently enjoy two-year contracts which pay out an extra year's salary if the company is taken over.

Pirc, the corporate governance lobby group, is urging shareholders to vote against the share plans and also oppose the re-election of Michael Orr, a non-executive director who sits on the remuneration committee. Mr Orr is a director of Lazard Brothers, Granada's merchant banking adviser, and Pirc does not consider him independent.

Its objections to the share plan are threefold. It does not have a capital commitment by directors, it is for only three years, not five, and it starts paying out if Granada's share performance is just 50th in the FT-SE 100 index of companies.

A number of institutions are expected to support Pirc's moves. Standard Life, the insurer, has a stated principle

of opposing directors' contracts of more than one year. This principle was brought in too late for Granada's meeting last year, and this is the first time Standard Life has been able to take up the issue with the company.

Granada is also looking increasingly unlikely to make the City's deadline of the end of January for the sale of the remaining 14 Exclusive properties. Further sales are considered unlikely this week despite recent reports that Granada is on the verge of selling the Ritz in Madrid, valued at around £54 million.

If Granada fails to rush through sales next week, the company's share price may come under pressure, although Granada insists that the sell-off remains on course to meet its vague "early 1997" deadline.

Granada also seems to be preparing the City for a U-turn over the sale of the Grosvenor House Hotel, the largest single asset in the Exclusive portfolio. The sale of the hotel, which is valued at £320 million, has been complicated by the inclusion of a series of residential flats in the property and the suggestion that the hotel needs around £30 million of repairs.

City analysts believe Granada is capable of doubling profit at the Grosvenor to around £40 million, and the company has begun comparing the hotel to its other catering interests.



The value of the green pound is reflected by the enormous success of Riverdance, the show, and its spin-offs

Magazine with green spin to float

By Jason Nisse

A NEW magazine, aimed at cashing in on the phenomenal growth of the green pound, is to raise £500,000 for its launch through an offer flotation.

What's the Crack? is due to publish monthly, from May, and is aimed at young people of Irish descent in the UK and Ireland. About 850,000 people in the UK hold Irish passports and the Irish Post recently claimed that nearly a fifth of the UK population claims Irish descent.

The magazine is being launched by Brian McHale, the former advertising executive and Australian Playboy journalist. He hopes to cash in on the success of the likes of Caffrey's Irish Ale, Riverdance and Irish theme pubs, like Scruffy Murphy's and Waxy O'Connor's, which also chase the green pound.

He also defended the anglicised spelling of the Gaelic word "crack", meaning fun. He said the Irish Post's entertainment page is called The Crack and the magazine did not want copyright problems.

Ford jobs threat at Halewood

By Oliver August

UNION leaders at Ford's Halewood car plant on Merseyside will this week try to save 4,500 jobs in the face of mounting speculation that the factory is destined for closure.

Ford managers are to demand tough concessions from the unions at a meeting on Thursday to increase efficiency. Ford's head office in America is believed to be considering a move of production facilities for the new Escort model from Halewood to continental Europe.

A company spokesman

said: "We are going through a tough situation in Europe and we have issues to address. We are looking at all our plants and that includes all those in the UK and that includes Halewood."

The compromise deal proposed by the management in Halewood is thought to include 500 job losses and a two-year no-strike agreement. The cost-cutting measures are designed to make Halewood as efficient as the Ford plant in Dagenham, east London. Failure to achieve this could result

in the new Escort being built in Saarlouis in Germany and Valencia in Spain. Ford has been on Merseyside for more than 35 years.

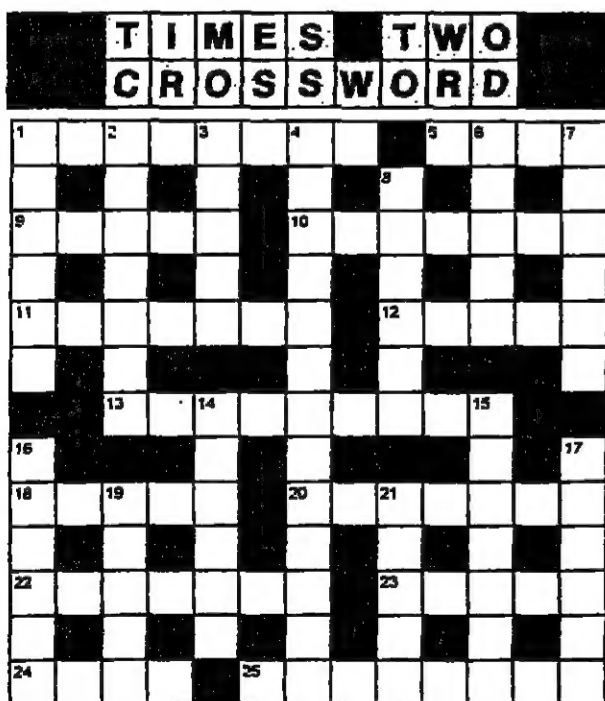
The US head office had warned of imminent action to cut excess capacity in an effort to stem huge European losses at the Detroit Motor Show last week. In September Ford told its 30,000 UK workers it wanted to cut 1,000 jobs at its British plants through voluntary redundancies and early retirement. The group recently surprised analysts by unveil-

ing a £279.2 million loss in Europe in the third quarter of 1996 compared with a £159.1 million profit in the first half.

It has blamed high production costs at its European plants and heavy losses in South America. Alec Trotman, Ford's British-born chairman, and Jac Nasser, head of Ford in Europe, said "tough steps" would be taken soon. The spokesman yesterday emphasised that workers would be consulted before any decision is taken.



JANET BUSH takes a look at the woes of the Japanese economy and assesses their worldwide impact



No 989

ACROSS

- 1 Swift African ruminant (8)
- 5 Refrain rights (to) (4)
- 9 One of the Little People (5)
- 10 The daily round (7)
- 11 Intricate type of number (maths) (7)
- 12 Rise, learn (subject) (3,2): outfit (3-2)
- 13 Two 20C US presidents (9)
- 18 Disprove (allegation) (5)
- 20 Screen of egg crossed strips (7)
- 22 A helping (7)
- 23 Ton-up type (5)
- 24 Swamp grass; oboe mouth part (4)
- 25 Sensing device (5)

DOWN

- 2 Make a difference to (6)
- 3 Vicar-of-Bray type (7)
- 4 Keeping faith (5)
- 6 Beyond compare (3,10)
- 7 Be alive (5)
- 8 Free (from obligation) (6)
- 9 Keep balls in air (6)
- 14 Be too clever for (6)
- 15 Dense grove (7)
- 16 Appropriate correctly behaved (6)
- 17 Panic (6)
- 19 Ballet dancer's rail (5)
- 21 Data ordered in columns (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 988

- ACROSS: 3 Dumbbell 7 Racine 8 Roll up 9 Corner 10 Jagged 11 Hemp 13 Debut 15 Dely 17 Droopy 18 Temper 19 Hollow 20 Gigolo 21 Patience
- DOWN: 1 Salome 2 Kidnap 3 Deprive 4 Buoyant 5 Eulogise 6 Lapidary 11 Hardship 12 Monoglot 13 Deplore 14 Upright 15 Damage 16 Feeble

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Sears will sell if BSC fails to step up trade

By Sarah Cunningham

LIAM STRONG, the chief executive of Sears, aims to sell or demerge the British Shoe Corporation unless it manages to improve its dismal performance by the summer.

The fate of Mr Strong, who has been chief executive for five years, is hanging in the balance after he angered institutional investors last week by issuing a profit warning and revealing a dip in sales over Christmas.

Sears is discussing the possible disposal of BSC — Britain's largest shoe retailer and the single biggest problem within the group — with SBC Warburg and other advisers.

But Sears wants to give new management at BSC a chance to show whether changes it has brought in are enough to revitalise the business.

Sears is not believed to have

received any approaches from potential buyers of BSC, which includes the Shoe Express and Shoe City chains. However, Payless Shoesource of the US is thought to be a possible bidder. If the decision



Strong: angered investors

to dispose of BSC is taken and no serious buyers emerge, Sears may form a joint venture with another shoe company or even shut down the business entirely and sell the shop freeholds.

The sale of the Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods, which is set to pay some £400 million, is expected to go ahead early this week. After tax and pension payments, Sears will raise around £350 million from the transaction, which will be distributed to investors via a special dividend or a share buyback.

If BSC is also sold, Sears will be left with Selfridges, Adams childrenswear and a clutch of womenswear retailers, including Wallis, Warehouse and Richards, which are performing strongly.

Battle renewed with former club director

Caspian plans Leeds arena

By Jason Nisse

CASPIAN GROUP is to renew its battle with Peter Gilman, the Leeds United director who tried to block Caspian's £16.5 million bid for the Premiership club, when the two both submit plans for a 15,000-seat indoor arena next to the team's ground in Elland Road.

Four groups are expected to make applications to Leeds City Council to build the arena by the deadline at noon today. In addition to Caspian and GNI Construction, Mr Gil-

man's company, there will be offers from Stadivarius, a consortium, and Tilbury Douglas, the builder.

The council, which owns Elland Road and leases it to Leeds United, has asked for an indoor arena able to host sporting events or concerts with a minimum of 10,000 fixed seats and about 5,000 moveable seats. It is expected to cost more than £20 million.

Caspian hopes to use the arena to house its new ice hockey team, which will start playing in September 1998

after a deal with the ice hockey superleague and the Sheffield Steelers team which is costing Caspian up to £300,000.

Chris Akers, Caspian's chairman, denied that the company would need a rights issue to pay for the arena bid.

Mr Akers also dismissed speculation that Richard Thompson, 31, the former QPR chairman, was about to sell his 6 per cent stake in the group to take a holding in Tottenham Hotspur, a rumour also discounted by Alan Sugar, chairman of Spurs.

Companies vie for BA engineering

British Airways yesterday said it had received several approaches from companies wishing to invest in its engineering arm.

BA would not deny speculation that General Electric of America wanted to buy a large stake in its £600 million engineering division, which employs 9,000 staff. It was converted into a separate profit centre in 1995 and already provides services for more than 100 other airlines.

Board priorities

France and Belgium are the only European countries to give serious consideration to investor relations, according to a survey of European boardrooms by Korn-Ferry International, the executive search firm. Corporate reputation is given scant attention anywhere, while Germany and France lead the field in planning for succession. Germany, France and Belgium make responsibilities to shareholders a top priority, while the UK places a premium on financial and operational performance. Copies of this survey are available from Korn-Ferry International on (0171) 312 3249.

TI success

TI Group, the engineering specialist, has won \$200 million worth of contracts on the new Bell Boeing 609 tiltrotor aircraft, which is seen as an alternative to ordinary small aircraft. TI's Dowty Aerospace and Messier-Dowty divisions will supply controls and landing gear. The contracts are seen as a stepping stone to participation in the building of a tiltrotor military transport aircraft.

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Captain's log: Branson charts his balloon flight



Back on terra firma: Richard Branson calling on a mobile phone after Virgin Challenger landed in the desert in Algeria. Earlier, he ignored desperate attempts by his command centre to contact him as the balloon plummeted

'Hurtling down, seconds left, we soar up again'

JANUARY 7: LAUNCH

06.00: Woke up after five hours' sleep. God knows when I will sleep again. I hear the distant sound of the dawn muezzin: the Muslim call to prayers. A good omen.
06.10: I telephone Tim Evans, my doctor, to check on Rory. He can't fly.
06.45: Ring Alex [Ritchie] to confirm he is on. He has brought only enough clothes for one day. I agree to lend him a spare set of underpants and glasses.
06.50: Write a letter to Holly and Sam [Mr Branson's children]. "Life seems rather unreal at times. Alive and well and loving one day, and no longer the next." I ask Tim to give it to them if we don't come back.
08.00: Everyone has gone to the launch site. Holly has not left my side in the last 24 hours. She is a jewel.
08.45: My first glimpse of the balloon. An awesome sight, towering above the city.
09.00: We sweep into the airfield. Half the Moroccan National Guard seems to have turned out in our honour.
10.15: It is hard to say goodbye to Dad whose eyes are filled with tears. He is 79. Mother, as usual, is as strong as an ox but presses into my hand a letter to open six days into the flight. She is being sentimental at last. Holly is as ever smiling and happy. Sam is enthralled. At last they are old enough to understand and enjoy my adventures. Then Sam breaks down. It is one of the hardest moments.

10.50: We enter the cabin and strap in. After 18 months of preparation I have a gut feeling it is going to be a success. I try to ignore the growling sense of apprehension.
11.19: Per begins the countdown. "Ten, nine, eight..." I barely heard him say "one" as the explosive bolts are released. The whole thing shakes and twists. It feels like it is going up incredibly fast. This is the most dangerous time. My hand is on the lever of my parachute.
11.23: 1,000ft. 2,000ft. I look out of the hatch door which is still open. The snow-capped Atlas Mountains are rising up to greet us. At 10,000ft we shut the hatch. We are on our own.
12.20: We reach 30,000ft. Everything is going to plan.
12.35: Per sinks into a fit of depression. He passes me a message from the ground. It's the first mistake. We cannot release the six one-tonne propane gas tanks which are a vital last resort of our bailout. Per is aghast. If the balloon does not work at nightfall, we will plummet with no way of dropping the fuel tanks. I am grateful we have been alerted.
15.30: The second shock. We are heading for restricted military airspace near Bchar in Algeria. A message says: "You are not. Repeat. You are not authorised to enter this area."
16.36: Discover in my diary a message from my son. He had sneaked it in before I left. I will always treasure it.



Richard Branson kept a diary of his attempt to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon, which failed after 20 hours. The forced landing of the *Breitling Orbiter* yesterday underlines the difficulties that Mr Branson was facing. He wrote the log before the launch of the *Virgin Challenger*, during quiet moments in the capsule, and in Algeria. He completed it on his return to London. This is an edited version of the diary.

16.40: Fantastic news. A new fax. We can transit Bchar airspace. The Algerians have only one concern: we might be cold. They wish us luck.
18.00: Per starts the burners, at 30,000ft, to keep the helium warm to maintain altitude.
19.05: We start to descend. We study the dials. We fall 500ft the first minute, 600ft the next. Not too worried. We burn more propane. Still cannot halt the descent: 800ft, 950ft, 1,250ft a minute. Something wrong.
19.10: We begin dumping ballast, big tubes of lead weight. We are working fast. They disappear like bombs. We continue falling. But we are falling faster, not slower.
19.12: At 15,000ft we are falling at 2,000ft a minute. At this rate we will hit the ground in minutes. No one panics. I'm desperately looking for rope to tie the round Alex. He straps on his parachute. I ask: "Have you parachuted before?" My god, he hasn't.
19.15: At 12,000ft we depressurise and manage to open the glass-topped hatch. I feel my ears pop. I am dimly aware that the satellite phone and fax are furiously ringing. Per shouts: "Dump everything." Seven minutes to go. Helium

is spilling out. Something is terribly wrong. I throw out food, water supplies, anything I can lay my hands on. Oil cans next. Our supplies are gone. The dream is over. I just want to live. We level out for a few minutes. It is a temporary respite. The descent resumes. I have cheated death 11 times. My life no longer flashes before me. I just want to get us out of this.
19.20: I push Alex up on to the roof at 8,500ft to release the couplings on the gas cylinders. We are going down at 1,500ft a minute. Alex has to get it right. He turns the locking device off, on, and off again. He turns to the next one. He knows what he's doing. Per shouts: "Get back inside. We've got 90 seconds left." We throw ourselves back in our seats. Per is calm. We are still hurtling down. There is only seconds left before we smash to the ground. Alex and I shout: "Can we parachute?" It's too late. The capsule can withstand a fall at 1,000ft a minute. We are falling at 2,000. Per throws the explosive bolt with 2,000ft left.
One tank drops away. We soar into the air. What a wonderful feeling. I put my hand on Alex's shoulder.

"Thank God you're with us, Alex."
19.25: The needle goes down, steadies, turns and starts to rise. It touches 19,000ft. We start twisting. We steady. We bleed fuel from one of the other propane tanks. It settles again at 10,000ft.
19.45: We have still not spoken to command centre. Something bizarre is happening. The temperature outside is freezing but the balloon starts to rise.
20.45: Wake up Alex. He examines the fuel gauges. We have unknowingly leaked

350kg of propane from a second tank. We level at 26,000ft. I have caught Rory's flu. Go to the loo again. No one packed any loo paper. Can only go when we have had a fax. I feel old, have a dry throat, I'm thirsty. If I get out alive I am never doing this again. I recall Alan Coren's story about the English gentleman who felt there must be a more civilised way to swim across the Channel. He arrives in style in a Rolls Royce with strawberries and champagne and announces: "My man will swim across the Channel for me." Maybe that is a better way of doing it.
22.00: Come down to 10,000ft once the fuel tank has emptied. We are heading for the Saharan Atlas mountains between Morocco and Algeria. We decide to risk flying across them. The capsule is in a mess. Per is lying down looking up from the bunk. He looks like a corpse. We still don't know if we are going to make it. Alex is positive. He is like a young boy who has been given the keys to a sweetshop. Every moment is the biggest thrill of his life.
23.00: Decide against sending a message back to base. I don't want them alerted until I know my family is safely asleep and we are over the worst.

To Dad
I hope you
have a great
time.
Safe Journeys
Lots + Lots
of Love
your Son Sam
XX ♡ ♡ XX

Sam Branson sneaked a message into his father's diary

We land safely and dance for joy

JANUARY 8

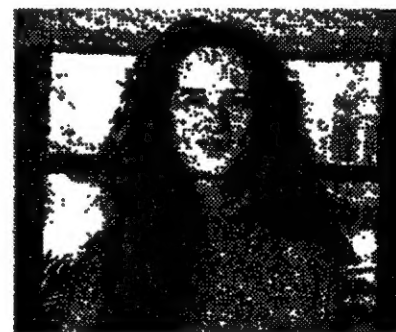
01.15: Send message to base. "Had a serious problem. Will have to abort flight. Managed to keep enough ballast to enable us to land. Plan to land at dawn in Algerian desert. Here is to all of you who tried so hard to make it happen, Richard." They will be shattered.
04.00: Complete a controlled descent from 26,000ft to 7,000ft. The mountain range is ahead of us. We rise to 9,000ft to clear it. We know we have to land within the first 30 minutes of dawn breaking or the sun will take us up to 30,000 feet again.
06.30: We have cleared the mountains into Algeria as the sun rises. The scenery is breathtaking. Pure Lawrence of Arabia. Beautiful dawn rich sun rising across the desert. It is a parched wilderness. We are dropping at 300ft a minute. I don't want it to end.
07.00: Coming in to land. Turn the cameras back on. We hurtle across a low crop of mountains. Nothing in sight.
07.19: We come in with a bump at 250ft a minute. It was a solid bone-shaking landing. The second we hit the ground, Per releases the explosive bolts and the balloon wafts into the air. Alex is screaming with joy. We throw our arms round each other. We feel like we have landed on the moon. We dance arm in arm around the capsule.
07.35: I remember the civil war in Algeria when I see four turbanned dots approaching. I shook hands with each of the men, who bowed and said: "Allah." I said very firmly to each: "Allah." One or two other nomads appeared but ran away. I felt like I had landed on the moon. They had never seen a balloon before.
07.50: An official, with an armed guard, approaches. He speaks good English. We ask for the armed guard to wait with us. We get on the satellite phone. Alex first. Then me. Joan answers. She is thrilled. I speak to Holly and Sam. I am looking forward to seeing them tonight.
09.49: We hear the roar of three helicopter gunships overhead. Rescue is at hand. Men with machineguns spew out. I am convinced they are friends. The local governor has invited us for lunch. We politely decline. We want to go home. The



Virgin Challenger: nomads who saw it land in Algeria ran away

colonel asks for our passports. I graciously accept the invitation.
10.20: Driven in an armed motorcade, with sirens wailing, through traffic lights and road blocks. We think it is going to be a 20-minute journey. Three hours later we arrive at the governor's home, which is like an armed fortress.
13.20: Alex is right. The Algerians are being hospitable. We will never be there again. We should make the most of it.
13.50: Lunch. We had been out of phone contact for hours. One consolation at least. Going to the loo. I should have known better. It was a hole in the ground and there was no toilet paper. Then we get a message that our chase plane had tracked us down. They are given permission to land 80 miles away. A helicopter is coming to pick us up. At last we are going home.
15.30: We made it on to the plane, clicked our seatbelts on, when a colonel came on board and announced: "No one is

leaving." The local Prefect wanted us to have dinner with him. We apologised. We were to meet the Minister of Transport in Algiers that night. The plane is grounded.
17.30: Dinner with the prefect. We don't speak French. They don't speak English. We are great, I think. It was difficult to chew. Apparently the Prefect is inviting us to launch from Algeria next time. A telephone call arrives conveniently before I have to reply. It is the Minister of Transport. He is furious we have been delayed. We are taken back to the plane.
22.00: I sleep on the plane for four minutes. We are ordered off. We cannot leave. There is a curfew. The weather is not right. Back to the Prefect's house. I am bewildered. Will we ever get out?
Thursday, 05.00: Taken back to the airport. The Prefect is so apologetic he drives the car himself. The President of Algeria, who hours earlier I feared might have ordered us to be shot down, has loaned us his private jet.
08.00: Met by the British Ambassador and four SAS men. Have a brief discussion with the head of Algerian Airlines about the prospect of co-operation with Virgin Atlantic. We are driven in a bullet-proof Range Rover, and the obligatory six-car escort. I am beginning to wish I was still in the balloon.
10.00: Meet the Minister of Transport and discuss future production of Virgin virgin olive oil. He gives assurance our capsule will be secure. He invites us to be his guest in Algeria for three days. Difficult to explain I had alternative commitments when I was supposed to be flying around the globe for three weeks. Escorted back to the airbase. Bomb goes off at one of the terminals as we arrive. We have gone from the frying pan into the fire. For the first time in my life, pressure has got to me physically.
10.30: We take off and discuss how to get the next balloon flight right. I remember my mother's letter. I look forward to a rare outpouring of sentimentality. Alex feels I should read it in private and moves to the other end of the plane. It begins: "Dear Ricky, I have found this great estate in South Africa which I think you should look at." She went on, for ten pages. I laughed all the way home.
© Richard Branson



Meet Megan.

Megan's reading a booklet that carefully explains the whole process of buying a house.

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Speedy whale leaves scientists trailing in its wake

By NICK NUTTALL

THE fastest whale in the world may be a humpback that has astonished scientists by making a record-breaking migration from Alaska to Hawaii, covering 2,775 miles in 39 days.

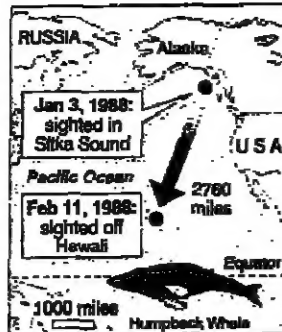
Normally whales take an average of 102 days to make the trip. But this one — known only as 339 — cut the average time by 65 days.

Janice Straley, one of the scientists who documented the feat, said yesterday: "Other fast migrations we have had are 79 to 80 days — but nothing as fast as this."

The record-breaking dash is even the more surprising given that humpbacks are not the greyhounds of the sea. "If you look at other baleen whales like the blue, fin or sei, they are sleek. But humpbacks are rotund with knobs on and look like a slug rather than a bullet when they are swimming," Ms Straley, of the University of Alaska South East, said.

Peter Evans, a whale expert at the zoology department of Oxford University, said yesterday: "It's a very fast time. Quite spectacular."

The swim was discovered by Alaskan and Hawaiian



scientists researching into the north Pacific humpbacks which feed off capelin, herring, krill and plankton off southeast Alaska before migrating to the warm waters

of the Hawaiian islands to breed.

Humpbacks make the journey because the waters near the Arctic are rich in food but the young are born with little or no fat. They are less likely to survive in the cold waters of Alaska," said Ms Straley, whose team's findings are published in *Marine Mammal Science*.

Long-term monitoring has shown that the estimated 900 humpbacks off southeast Alaska can be told apart by unique black and white patterns on the underside of their tail flukes.

Ms Straley photographed 339 in Sitka Sound on Janu-

ary 3, 1988, before dispatching the photos along with those of scores of other whales down to researchers at the Kewalo Basin marine mammal laboratory in Hawaii.

"We were not looking for a fast migration or anything like this — but one of the Hawaiian researchers made the match on February 11," Ms Straley said.

The scientists suspect the whale — which if it swam in a straight line travelled at an average speed of 3mph — probably made the journey in an even faster time.

"It is unlikely that the whale was photographed on the last day it was present in

Alaskan waters nor on the first day it arrived in Hawaii," the team says.

The record for the longest swim by a man is held by Fred Newton who, in 1930, swam 1,825 miles along the Mississippi River, spending 30.91 days in the water, and averaging 2.4mph. But unlike 339, Mr Newton, had numerous rests and the journey was staged over five and a half months.

Humpbacks and other baleen whales such as greys can reach speeds in excess of 5mph.

David Withrow of the National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, Washing-

ton, said toothed whales, such as orcas and other marine mammals such as dolphins could reach about 40mph.

But these speeds are in short dashes and the mammals do not go on long migrations. Humpbacks make one of the longest documented migrations of a marine mammal, underlining the achievement of 339's trip.

The scientists believe the finding may have important consequences for the conservation of the north Pacific humpbacks, *Megaptera novaeangliae*.

It may be that this whale is

unique or that other humpbacks make fast migrations too but have never been seen.

If other whales in the area are making such journeys, it means humpbacks are in Alaskan waters for at least nine months of the year.

So there should be tougher controls on driftnet fishermen and companies that carry out blasting to build harbours, experts believe.

As for the record-breaking whale 339, its whereabouts are now unknown.

"I have only seen the whale once" — but the whale has also been seen in Mexico. He or she gets around," Ms Straley said.

Wrinkle evidence gives a new line of attack on smokers

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PROOF that smoking makes people look older than their years has been found by scientists studying the skin of identical twins.

The skin of regular smokers is up to 40 per cent thinner than the skin of genetically identical sisters and brothers who do not smoke. It means that long-term smokers are more likely to have wrinkles and other cosmetic signs of ageing than someone who has shunned cigarettes, cigars and pipes.

The findings, by a team at St Thomas's Hospital in London, offer health campaigners and the anti-smoking lobby a new and potentially powerful weapon in the education war against tobacco use, especially among the young.

A spokesman for the Health Education Authority said: "If health warnings about dying don't reach youngsters, maybe we can appeal to their vanity. We know that young people respond to images relating to their personal attractiveness."

A third of young women in Britain aged 16 to 24 are regular smokers, an increase of 5 per cent since 1994. Among young men of the same age, 34 per cent smoke. Twelve per cent of children

aged 11 to 15, and a third of those aged 15, are smokers.

Dr Tim Spector, head of the Twin Research Unit at St Thomas's, said yesterday: "Most young kids don't listen to warnings about lung cancer but they might be worried if they thought they were going to look older."

The findings have come from a study of twins as part of a wide-ranging research into disease and genetics. The scientists found 25 pairs of identical twins where one twin has smoked and the other has not.

In theory, any difference between an identical twin should be due to their environment and lifestyles rather than being genetic. A new ultrasound technique was used to gauge their inner arm skin thickness.

It was found that the smokers' skins were an average of a quarter thinner than the non-smokers. In a few cases, there were differences of up to 40 per cent.

The damage is highlighted by Morey Cornick and Carol Deller, identical twins aged 57. The scientists found that Morey, who has smoked since her teens but is not considered a heavy smoker, had skin just 0.57mm thick, in comparison

with a measurement of 0.91mm for her sister. Special imprints of her face found that Morey's face had more wrinkles and fewer pores.

Dr Veronique Bataille, the dermatologist involved in the tests, said that there were several theories to explain the results: "Smoking can affect the blood supply to the top layer of skin and that would damage it."

"Another way is that a chemical released in the skin after you smoke can release an enzyme that breaks down collagen and elastic tissue." Smoking might also damage the genetic material in skin cells, which could in turn affect the skin's properties, she said.

Dr Spector added: "It's always been known from observation that smoking makes you age more quickly but this has never been demonstrated in much scientific detail before. Doctors say they can recognise smokers' faces because they look more wrinkled and haggard."

The message from this research is, before you take up smoking, think whether you want to look much older than you are, and have weaker and more wrinkly skin."



Police and sheriff's officers move on the stockaded camp in the way of a £65 million road scheme

Night raid destroys road protesters' camp

THIRTEEN road protesters were arrested yesterday after a nine-hour operation to clear their camp from the path of a £65 million road scheme. Twelve were among demonstrators who had locked themselves into tunnels and bunkers on a stockaded hilltop and the

thirteenth was held for non-payment of fines. A hundred police and 45 sheriff's officers took part in the nine-hour operation, which started at 3.30am. Once the tunnels had been cleared with the help of underground specialists, heavy machinery made them unusable.

The Trolbein camp was one of three built to oppose a 15-mile scheme between Exeter and Honiton. The first camp, at Allernose, was cleared on December 27. Trevor Coleman, the under sheriff of Devon, would not say when the last camp, at Fairmile, would be cleared.

Man fled cleaver killer in vain

By LIN JENKINS

A BUSINESSMAN was repeatedly hit about the head with a meat cleaver as he ran through his home, trying in vain to escape his murderer police disclosed yesterday.

Keith Forster, who owed money to creditors, struggled to flee the attack after being set upon in his kitchen on Friday. Police say that blood was splattered throughout his bungalow in Stevington End, Essex. They believe his killer used a meat cleaver from among Mr Forster's kitchen knives. Mr Forster was a keen cook.

Mr Forster, 52, had financial worries and had recently given up his interest in a local winebar. His catering supplies company had closed and he had debts of thousands of pounds. His marriage had broken down recently, with his wife taking their daughters to five ten miles away.

Detective Superintendent Clive Seal said: "This was a frenzied attack, and the worst of its kind I have seen." He appealed to anyone who might have seen someone covered in blood to contact the police.

Initial inquiries will focus on Mr Forster's business associates. Police say that since there was no sign of a break-in, he could have known his murderer. He was found by his girlfriend when she arrived home on Friday evening.

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